

HARDIN THOMAS HOUSE
BUILT BY THOMAS LINCOLN

DRAWER 11

ANCESTRAL HOMES

21 JAN 1900

Kentucky

Ancestral Homes

Hardin Thomas House

Built by Thomas Lincoln

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

CHAPTER XXXII

Among the early settlers of this town was Hardin Thomas. He was the father of Jack Thomas, Isaac Thomas, Jesse Thomas, Miles H. Thomas, Alex Thomas, and of several daughters, one of whom married Col. Jacob B. Hayden, our present Senator.

Hardin Thomas was a man of peace. He married Hetty Gerrard, a daughter of really the first Baptist preacher in Kentucky. He was a farmer, and his life was not such as to attract a great deal of attention from the outside world; but he was the "noblest work of God"—"an honest man." And not only an honest man, but was possessed of a degree of benevolence rarely met with in this world of dollars and cents. His house was a kind of central point for the neighborhood; and as at that period, when churches were few, and religious services rather poorly attended to, a little visiting and good eating on the Sabbath day was not looked upon as at this day; on the contrary the folks worked all the week and considered that resting on the Sabbath consisted in visiting friends, having social chats, and a good share of table indulgences. So whether Hardin Thomas and Cousin Hetty preferred it or not, the Sabbath was not a day of rest to them, but rather a day of labor. The neighbors and young folks poured in every Sabbath, or nearly so. I have often been one of them, and partook of the hospitalities of the united head of the family; and those hospitalities were not extended with a stinted or grudging hand, but flowed bountifully from their diligent hands and generous hearts.

And these Sunday doings were not all. But if a penniless man or woman sick, afflicted or distressed, passed through our country, they invariably dropped in to Hardin Thomas' and were there nursed, fed and lodged and kindly treated. And if you have been inclined to insult Hardin Thomas or his wife let one of these unfortunates ask them what was to pay for board, etc.

Everybody loved Hardin Thomas and his wife. He was very popular, but never had any political aspirations or thirst for office. I once heard a man ask Hardin Thomas why he did not offer for the Legislature. His reply was that he "would as soon be found with a sheep on his back." He lived in a house rather better than usual for that day, the carpenter's work of which was executed by Thomas Lincoln, the father of the late President; and the most of that work is to be seen at this day, sound as a trout, although done upwards of sixty years ago.

Hardin Thomas was a man of portly form and a pleasant countenance—just such a one as was comfortable to look at, and was a complete index of the inner man; but many years since he and his good wife have finished their courses and gone to their reward. His mother was a Hardin, the daughter of John Hardin, who was a brother of the old original Mark Hardin, of George's Creek, Pennsylvania. His father was named Owen Thomas; he was the brother of Gen. John Thomas, who commanded the Kentucky troops under Gen. Jackson at the battle of New Orleans. One of his sons, Miles H. Thomas, still lives near Claysville town. He is a clever, honest farmer; and if it was not disparaging to the character of his intellectual powers, I would say that he does not know how to do a mean thing.

One peculiarity more of Hardin Thomas I will name. He was so honest himself that he was unsuspicious of others. And although he lived upon a public road leading from Louisville to Nashville, he trusted all to luck; had no lock to his house, or desk, or smoke-house, or corn-crib. I heard him myself say that there was not a lock about his house. And singular as it may be, I never heard of his losing anything by theft.

But those halcyon days have fled; they have rolled back into the womb of the past, and only held in remembrance by the few aged persons, lingering on the shores of time, who are yet in our midst, but silently and stealthily and steadily approaching the verge of their appointed bounds, and ere long will vacate the seats they occupy, to be filled by younger and stronger men, who in the vigor of youth and manhood shall fill their destiny and in time become old and fade away. But these are rather melancholy reflections, but should not be so, as it is the established order of nature, ever since Adam and Eve were expelled from Paradise; and yet the world is always full of youth, manhood and old age.

The days last spoken of were days of generous hospitality; the size of a man was never taken into account when there was such an abundance of out of doors all around. Apropos Lewis Thomas, who resided on Hardin's creek, in Washington county, was a brother of Hardin Thomas, of whom I have last spoken. He belonged to the Methodist Episcopal Church. In those good old camp-meeting times one was held near his house. On those occasions hundreds, perhaps a thousand, attended who had no camp-building, and were dependent on the hospitality of all the neighborhood around; and Lewis Thomas living on the pebble road, as a living stream of humanity were passing his house, he ran out, and, with a cheerful voice, called on them to stop, adding that his house was only eighteen feet square, but that his heart was one hundred feet square.

Thomas of £1.11.0, leaving a balance of £4.9.0, the amount for which Thomas sued.

In comparing the contract with the actual work done we find that seven of the twenty-five logs were not exactly to specification, four being six inches too long, and three six inches too short. A variation of six inches one way or the other in the logs of a cabin was not surprising. As this building was to be a sawmill it would not require such accuracy as Geoghegan seems to have demanded.

It is sufficient to say that the court in every case found for Thomas Lincoln, which would indicate that he had fulfilled his contract in a "workman-like manner."¹²

Although we have no documentary proof, other than the Geoghegan suit, that Thomas Lincoln followed the carpenter's trade after his marriage, several traditions which are current in Elizabethtown suggest that he was rather actively engaged in the construction and finishing of the early homes in the community. A letter was written by Mr. Haycraft to the editor of the "Louisville Democrat," dated from Elizabethtown July 9, 1865, referring to the death of Jack Thomas. A part of the letter follows:

I have just learned that my old friend and relation Jack Thomas Esq. departed his life at his residence in Leitchfield, Grayson County, on the 5th. day of July, 1863. Jack Thomas and myself commenced this world poor boys together in the early existence of the state. He was born on the 7th. day of February, 1790 near this town, his father resided in a house the joiners work of which was done by Thomas Lincoln, father of the President.¹³

In 1869 when Samuel Haycraft wrote his history of Elizabethtown he again mentioned this house in con-

nection with Thomas Lincoln. Referring to Hardin Thomas, Jack Thomas's father, he said, "He lived in a house rather better than usual for that day, the carpenters work of which was executed by Thomas Lincoln the father of the late President; and the most of that work is to be seen at this day, sound as a trout, although done upwards to sixty years ago."¹⁴ It will be noticed that the date of the construction of the house would bring it back to to date when Thomas Lincoln was living in Elizabethtown.

Another entry in Haycraft's history would imply that Thomas Lincoln constructed the house in which he lived at Elizabethtown: "After this time similar buildings were erected by George Berry, Jacob Bruner, Samuel Patton, Mrs. Jane Ewing, Mrs. Boling, Mrs. Lewellen, Thomas Lincoln (father of the President) James Crutcher, Asa Coombs, Thomas Davis, Henry Ewing, James Love, and David Vance."¹⁵ Most of the pioneers constructed their own houses with the help of neighbors, and it is not unreasonable to think that Thomas followed the usual course of the pioneer. There were probably no cabins for rent in Elizabethtown at this time. In the face of all this evidence we cannot accept the estimate that has been placed upon the industry of Thomas Lincoln at this period. That he did carpenter work at Elizabethtown between the years 1803 and 1809 is an assured fact.

THE FARMER

If one had a fairly good idea of the difficulties that the pioneer experienced in getting his land ready for the crops

340 LINCOLN'S PARENTAGE AND CHILDHOOD

20. Commonwealth vs Mordecai Lincoln

To answer to a presentment of the grand jury exhibited against him for not keeping the road from May's Lick to Chaplin's Fork in repair according to law for which he is appointed overseer.
SUITS FILED IN BOX, JUNE, 1799. WASHINGTON CIRCUIT COURT.

21. Order Book, Quarter Session, B, 309, Hardin Circuit Court.

22. Order Book, September Term, 1786, Nelson County Court.

23. "Louisville Lincoln Loop," by the present author.

24. Road petition from Elizabethtown to Ohio River:

To the worshipful the justices of the County Court of Hardin County. Your petitioners humbly show that they are in great need of a road from the River Ohio to the court house in said county and it is the wish of the petitioners that the road begin a quarter of a mile below the mouth of Flippins Run which place your petitioners think central for their neighborhood. Your petitioners further state that a majority of them have from eight to ten miles to travel in going to work on and are obliged to labor under every inconvenience for want of a road themselves; These statements being fairly made we rest it with your Worships. and your Petitioners will ever pray dear.

Solomon Brandenburg, William Kendall, Elijah Allan, Ignatius Able, George Watts, George Rust, Thos. Swain, Aaron Rawlings, Nicholas Miller, John Esary, James Vanwinkle, Henry Ditto Jr., William Vertrees, Thomas Vanver, Jacob Vertrees, John Frakey, Davis Kendall, Davis Gregory, Jarimiah Cruse, David Enlow, Henry Ditto, Isaac Ditto, C—— Rawlings, Jacob Van Matre, Peter Bodine, George Howard, John Howard, Adam Miller, Abner Ashcraft, Abisha Ashcraft, Samuel Berry, Benjamin Berry, Joseph Coombs, John Merrifield, Hardin Thomas, John Johnson, Thomas Lincoln, Steph Rawlings, Benj. Wright, Sam Bush, Ich. Radley, Thomas Rop, Enoch Berry, John Miller.

BUNDLE MARKED ROAD PETITIONS BEFORE 1805, HARDIN COUNTY COURT.

25. Collins, Appendix.

26. Notes, I, 1, 14.

27. Notes VII, 12.

28. Notes, VIII, 13.

Who Was Who in Hardin County

By Hardin County Historical Society

JACK THOMAS

Some two years before Hardin county was formed, Jack Thomas was born near Elizabethtown, in the vicinity of what was then, as well as now, known as Claysville. The date of his birth was February 7, 1790. He was a descendant of the early pioneers who settled in what later became Hardin county. His father was Hardin Thomas, and his maternal grandfather was Rev. John Gerrard, the first pastor of Severn's Valley Baptist church. He was a great-grandson of Jacob VanMeter, and Major John Hardin was also his great-grandfather. General John Thomas was his great uncle.

While Hardin county was yet young, Jack Thomas became connected with the Circuit Court Clerk's office. The clerk, Ben Helm, needed a deputy and went to the school-house and examined the copy books, and finding his writing to be the most attractive, he selected him to become his deputy, and his appointment was accordingly made April 23, 1803. He served in this capacity until 1810, the year in which Grayson county was formed.

The first term of the Grayson Circuit Court was convened in July of that year in the woods where Leitchfield is now located. Judge Henry P. Broadnax was the first Circuit Judge, and his first official act after opening court was to appoint Ben Hardin as Commonwealth's Attorney. Two justices of the peace sat with the Circuit Judge and the three constituted the court. Next in order was the selection of a Circuit Clerk, and Jack Thomas and James W. Thornberry each were applicants for appointment. At that time Thornberry was twenty-one years of age, but Thomas was only twenty years of age. Judge Broadnax was not inclined to appoint Thomas because of a constitutional requirement that a

Circuit Court Clerk must be twenty-one years old. Thereupon the two associate judges inquired of Ben Hardin if there was any way that they could legally vote for the appointment of Thomas, as they considered him qualified by reason of his experience as a deputy clerk. Mr. Hardin advised them they could appoint Thomas clerk pro tem, and with two votes out of three they made the appointment accordingly. Judge Broadnax resented the action of Ben Hardin in advising the justices that a clerk pro tem could be appointed, and he said to Hardin that if he had known that he was going to give such advice, he would not have appointed him attorney for the Commonwealth. However, Judge Broadnax, when Thomas arrived at the age of twenty-one years, appointed him to the office of Circuit Clerk. This office, together with that of County Court Clerk, he held continuously for forty-one years. He was succeeded by his son, Edwin Thomas, Sr., who served as Circuit Court Clerk for a period of twenty-nine years.

Jack Thomas was married to Jane C. Hundley November 12, 1812, and they spent their entire married lives in Leitchfield, where he built the first brick residence in the town. It is still standing and in a splendid state of preservation. They reared a large family, and one of the daughters married Elisha Brown, who for some years was postmaster of Elizabethtown.

The house in which Jack Thomas was born was built by the father of Abraham Lincoln, and it is probable that they were acquainted. In a letter which Abraham Lincoln wrote to Samuel Haycraft dated May 28, 1860, Lincoln made reference to Jack Thomas and stated that he was familiar with his handwriting.

His death occurred July 5, 1865, and he is buried in the Thomas cemetery at Leitchfield. His sterling character was attested by his friend Samuel Haycraft who, after his death, wrote concerning him the following: "He carried his heart in his hand—open, generous, frank. If he knew anything of the arts of duplicity, concealment or deception, I never knew him to avail himself of it. He was a gentleman of the olden time."

By Allen P. Carlsberg

"Next comes the house built by Hardin Thomas in 1805 on the farm just off the North Dixie Highway now operated by Heady Jenkins. The carpenter work was done by Thomas Lincoln and this year (1919) the mantel from this house has been installed in the library of the Officers' Mess at Fort Knox. The father of Mrs. Sally Smith (Mrs. J. F. Albert's mother) now more than 90 years old, was born here. This is a frame house, log within."

Information taken from a
paper written by Mrs. R. W.
Cates of Elizabethtown, Ky.

The Elizabethtown Hardin Thomas Home

(Built by Thomas Lincoln)

Efforts to prove that Thomas Lincoln (father of the Sixteenth President) built the Hardin Thomas house, which is still standing near Elizabethtown, continue despite the lack of documentary records to nail down the facts. Up to date, the best information on the subject is to be found in Samuel Haycraft Jr's. "A History of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, and its Surroundings," written in 1869. On page 123, Chapter XXXII, Haycraft made the following statement: "He (Hardin Thomas) lived in a house rather better than usual for that day, the carpenter work of which was executed by Thomas Lincoln, the father of the late president; and the most of that work is to be seen at this day, sound as a trout, although done upwards of sixty years ago."

Another Haycraft reference appears on page 55 of the Elizabethtown history as follows: "He (Jack Thomas) was born on the 7th day of February, 1790. His father (Hardin Thomas) resided in a house the joiner's work of which was done by Thomas Lincoln, father of the president."

Some of the descendants of Hardin Thomas contend that Jack Thomas was born in the cabin home in 1790 and that if Thomas Lincoln built the cabin it would have to be prior to 1790. Historians who have worked through Kentucky court house records are convinced that Thomas Lincoln was born in 1776, although President Abraham Lincoln probably believed that his father was born in 1778. If the court records are correct, then the President's father was 14 years old in 1790. However, if the President was correct, his father was 12 years old on that date.

The earliest date that can be established that Thomas Lincoln was in Hardin County is July 13, 1796 when he was paid 39 shillings by Samuel Haycraft, Sr. for work on a mill race and mill dam. Tom Lincoln was at that time 20 years old.

The names of Hardin Thomas and Thomas Lincoln are linked together in Hardin County court documents. One such document is a petition (signed by 43 people) for a "road from the River Ohio to the court house . . . that the road begin a quarter of a mile below the mouth of Flippins Run" Another document is a petition for a road from Elizabethtown to Flippins Run. The route of the proposed road was to run through the land of Benjamin Helm, Hardin Thomas, Alexander Cashley . . . etc." The above documents are to be found in a bundle marked "Road Petitions Before 1805," in the Hardin County court records.

While we are certain that Thomas Lincoln was acquainted with Hardin Thomas, it is of interest to point out that President Lincoln was able to identify the handwriting of Jack Thomas, the Circuit Court Clerk. On May 28, 1860 while Lincoln was a presidential candidate he answered Samuel Haycraft, Jr.'s. letter. Among other things he wrote, "I do not think I ever saw you, though I very well know who you are - so well that I recognized your handwritings, on opening your letter, before I saw the signature. My recollection is that Jack Thomas and William Farleigh graduated in the same office, and that your handwritings were all very similar. Am I right?" Interestingly enough examples of the handwriting of the three clerks are extant and are similar.

One question that baffles the members of the Hardin County Historical Society and historians who are concerned with preserving the house is the date of its construction. About forty-five years ago Mrs. R. W. Cates of Elizabethtown prepared a paper about old houses in the town. The following information

is taken from her paper:

"Next comes the house built by Hardin Thomas in 1805 on the farm just off the North Dixie Highway now operated by Heady Jenkins. The carpenter work was done by Thomas Lincoln and this year (1919) the mantel from this house has been installed in the library of the Officer's Mess at Fort Knox. The father of Mrs. Sally Smith (Mrs. J. F. Albert's mother) now more than 90 years old, was born there. This is a frame house, log within."

On the other hand if one follows the approximate date of the construction of the house as given by Haycraft, ("upwards of sixty years ago") in 1869, the conclusion is that the house was constructed by Thomas Lincoln in 1809 at the age of 33, the year his famous son was born. Perhaps the date was sometime between the years 1805 to 1809, with most of the evidence leaning to the latter date.

There is documentary proof that Lincoln followed the carpenter's trade in Elizabethtown. This is revealed in the details of the Geoghegan-Lincoln suit. Lincoln, not long after his marriage to Nancy Hanks (1806) made a contract to hew enough logs to erect a mill. Lincoln fulfilled his part of the contract but Geoghegan claimed the work was not done according to specifications. Lincoln brought suit against Geoghegan in a magistrate's court on March 25, 1807. Lincoln won the suit. The judgment was for four pounds and nine shillings and the cost of the trial amounted to four shillings and six pence plus the cost of the appeal.

Another entry in Haycraft's history would indicate that the father of the President constructed the house in which he lived at Elizabethtown:

"After this time similar buildings were erected by George Berry, Jacob Bruner, Samuel Patton, Mrs. Jane Ewing, Mrs. Boling, Mrs. Lewellen, Thomas Lincoln (father of the President), James Crutcher, Asa Coombs, Thomas Davis, Henry Ewing, James Love and David Vance."

It is an assured fact that Lincoln did carpenter's work at Elizabethtown between the years 1803 and 1809.

Because Thomas Lincoln was a skilled cabinetmaker it has been asserted that he did not build the Hardin Thomas House but did the inside finishing work. Haycraft referred to Lincoln's work on the Thomas House as that of a "joiner." Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines a joiner as (1) "one who or that which joins, (2) one whose occupation is to construct articles by joining pieces of wood; a skilled woodworker who does the woodwork (as doors, stairs, etc.) necessary for the finishing of buildings." Perhaps he did both. His carpenter's work ranged all the way from Geoghegan Mill to the Thomas Mantlepiece now located in the Lincoln Room of the Armor Center Officer's Open Mess at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

The farm on which the Hardin Thomas house now stands will eventually become a part of the Valley Creek Watershed. Water will be impounded by multipurpose dams to provide additional water for the town, provide flood control and recreation. Luckily the site of the house will not be in the flooded area but on high ground.

It is the hope of many Elizabethtown people that the historic Hardin Thomas home will be preserved. At this date it is almost a miracle that a house built by Thomas Lincoln should still be standing. Perhaps sometime

soon this historic house will take its rightful place along with other famous Kentucky homes. Elizabethtown is indeed fortunate that such a valuable historic relic has been preserved.

A. H.
---WILBERT T. JENKINS
P. O. BOX ~~33~~ 209
ELIZABETHTOWN, KENTUCKY 42701

May 12, 1964

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry
Lincoln Life Foundation Bldg.
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Gerald,

I certainly did appreciate your excellent letter and interesting enclosures which included the mantle out of the old house. It certainly was thoughtful of you to go to all the trouble and send us copies of all the valuable information and express your sentiments on the historical value of the Thomas Lincoln building to Elizabethtown and the State of Kentucky. I am sure that if we present it at the proper time very much interest will be created by our citizens about this historic landmark.

Mary Lee and I have read your letter several times and studied the copies of "Lincoln Lore" that you enclosed for us. Thank you so much for sending the copy with the picture of the old mantle that is located at Fort Knox and the descriptions of the other beautiful and interesting furniture that is still on display.

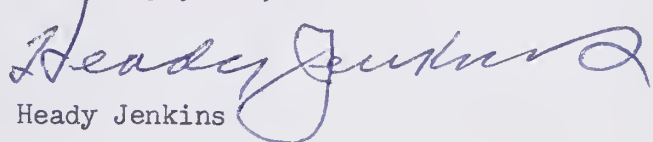
I have showed your letter to our County Attorney, Mr. Burton Cowley, (I believe you met him when you were visiting here), who is very much interested in the historic background of our community and has served as president of the local Historical Society. Mr. Cowley belongs to the Vine Grove Cowleys.

I think Mary Lee is planning to put your letter with "her" keepsakes as she still claims you as "One of her Own".

I will be looking for you to drop in and see me the next time you are in Elizabethtown so I can discuss further with you some of the interesting things we are finding out about my farm. Mr. Cowley tells me that he has almost finished tracing the deeds back to Hardin Thomas as the owner of my farm and should be done with his work in the next week or 10 days.

Thanking you again for your interest, I am,

Sincerely yours,


Heady Jenkins

October 17, 1963

Mr. Cubbage
October 17, 1963
Page Two

Mr. Allen P. Cubbage
Cubbage & Cubbage
Litchfield, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Cubbage:

I was pleased to have your letter of October 9th. The Woman's Club of Elizabethtown is the publisher of my little pamphlet on Haycraft's "History of Elizabethtown". In this pamphlet I have incorporated the correspondence between Abraham Lincoln and Samuel Haycraft. You can get a copy at the Brown-Pusey House in Elizabethtown.

Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were married on June 12, 1806. Their first child, Sarah, was born in Elizabethtown on February 10, 1807. Lincoln was born at the Sinking Spring farm in Hardin County (now Larue County) on February 12, 1809. A third child named Thomas was born on Knob Creek in 1811. He died in infancy. The above birthdates indicate that the Thomas Lincolns had only one child when Abraham Lincoln was born.

Your letter indicates that you wonder about the size of the cabin and how it was possible for all of them to live under one roof. The original cabin measured 18' X 16' which was the usual size for a one room home in those days. The reconstructed cabin in the memorial measures but 17' X 13'. There was some squaring off of the ends of the logs which had deteriorated, but the loss of three feet in the width of the structure was evidently a mutilation of a different character. The Lincoln home was not inferior to other pioneer dwellings, in fact the Lincolns lived under more favorable conditions than many of their neighbors. The surroundings of Abraham Lincoln at birth did not differ in any respect from the conditions existing in thousands of pioneer cabins on the frontier in the year 1809.

Mr. Cabbage
October 17, 1963
Page Two

You are correct. My father was Robert T. McMurtry who died in 1914. My mother, Mrs. L. B. Hake, still resides in Elizabethtown. I am glad to know of our kinship. I remember my grandmother very well. She was a Crady. I enclose a biographical sketch which you may find of interest.

It has occurred to me that you might be interested in our monthly bulletin. We make no charge for it. I am placing your name on our subscription list. Under separate cover I am sending you the 1963 issues.

Again many thanks for your letter.

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGM:hs

Enclosure

209 Elizabeth St.
Elizabethtown, Ky.
11 November 1963

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry
The Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Gerald:

We are very interested in the idea you suggest in your letter of 4 November 1963 relative to preserving the Hardin Thomas house built by Thomas Lincoln and now owned by Heady Jenkins.

Edmund and I went out there yesterday and looked at the house from the outside and took a couple of pictures which we will send to you when we complete the roll of film. There is a small cemetery back there, too, but we could make out the inscriptions on only five of the stones and two of these were infants, one a son of William H. Thomas but no dates. Mehetabel Thomas, born 1769, died 1839 and Gilly C., wife of William Bethel and daughter of Christopher Miller, born 1809, died 1846 are buried there.

Burton said he would run back the deeds on the house and I am willing to do anything I can to help, just let me know what you want done.

We look forward to seeing your article in ANTIQUES and LINCOLN LORE. Thanks for telling us about them.

I'll talk to Burton again and find out if he has any specific ideas as to what I should do about Hardin Thomas. We will also talk about it at the meeting of the Historical Society this coming Thursday night.

Sincerely,

Margaret S. Richerson



Memorandum • POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: Valley Creek Watershed Land Purchase includes
Hardin Thomas house that THOMAS LINCOLN BUILT.

DATE: May 5, 1964

FROM: Alex Heady Jenkins
Elizabethtown, Ky. 42701

IN REPLY
REFER TO:

P. O. CL:

TO: Dr. Gerald McMurtry
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Gerald,

I am sending you a copy of "The Elizabethtown News" which tells about the purchase of land for the Valley Creek Watershed that will begin in the next two or three weeks.

The recreation area and water reservoir will be on Freeman Creek, which runs through my farm, and will take from 160 to 200 acres of my land. This is known as project No. 4 and besides the land that it will take it will also include the House built for Hardin Thomas by Thomas Lincoln. Near the house is a graveyard that contains the families of Christopher Miller and Hardin Thomas.

I believe that I told you that I had no intentions of selling the farm when you were in my office as I wanted to develop the site of the old cabin and graveyard when I retire in about one year and a half. In fact several of the Real Estate representatives in Elizabethtown will testify to my sincerity from the price I placed on the farm when they tried to buy the land for sub-division development.

Inasmuch as it appears that the Freeman Creek area is the best and most suitable location for the watershed, I am going to let the City purchase it without any protest and try to get the most money I can out of the entire property.

In order to cut down on the net capital gains I will have to be allowed a good percentage of damage for income tax exemption on Capital Gains. The question I want to ask you is - "What is your opinion about the Historical Value of the "Old House" and grave yard and is it such you could claim damage relative to an "Income Tax Exemption" on Capital Gains when you consider that both the "Old House" and "Grave Yard" will be part of the land desired for the watershed project?

Maybe I have put you on the spot by requesting an estimate or information on a matter like this as I never have heard of anything like it before, but I certainly will appreciate any advice or information you can furnish before I deal with the city in the next week or so.

Everything looks fresh and beautiful around the farm now and our City continues to grow in all directions. Hope you and your family are fine and very best wishes to all of you.-----Sincerely, Heady Jenkins *-Heady*





Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of The Lincoln National Life Foundation . . . Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor
Published each month by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 1512

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

February, 1964

FURNITURE MADE BY THOMAS LINCOLN

In *Lincoln Lore*, Number 1476, February 1961, the corner cupboards made by President Abraham Lincoln's father were described at some length. The third paragraph of that article stated that "there are several . . . pieces of cabinet work still extant in Kentucky, Indiana and possibly Illinois, which Thomas Lincoln is known to have constructed. These include cherry spool beds, mantlepieces, desks, bookcases, chests and sideboards." This issue of *Lincoln Lore* will feature some of these miscellaneous products of Thomas Lincoln's workshop.

Another issue of *Lincoln Lore*, Number 513, has related in some detail how Lincoln worked as a carpenter between the years 1803 and 1809. In fact, there is a well authenticated tradition that the President's father owned the best set of carpenter tools in Hardin county. Exactly when Thomas Lincoln served his apprenticeship as a carpenter and cabinetmaker is not known, but by the time he became of age he was doing rough carpentry and making plain furniture.

It may be a reasonable supposition that Thomas Lincoln learned his trade in the shop of the Reverend Jesse Head. This was the Methodist minister who performed the marriage ceremony uniting Nancy Hanks and Thomas Lincoln on June 12, 1806. When Thomas Lincoln lived with his widowed mother in Washington County, Kentucky, one of his neighbors was Jesse Head whose fifty acre farm on Read Run, some distance from the county seat town of Springfield, was located in "the midst of the Lincolns and Berrys . . ." Jesse Head was born on June 10, 1768, in Frederick County, Maryland and was some eight years older than Thomas Lincoln.

This energetic pioneer was constantly engaged in cabinetmaking, in deposition taking and in preaching. As recognition of his skill as a cabinetmaker increased, he eventually moved his shop to Springfield. Jesse Head became sufficiently established as a cabinetmaker to have three orphan boys apprenticed to him. One record reveals that on November 7, 1797, David Redmond, the orphan of Alexander Redmond, was bound to Jesse Head to learn the art of a cabinetmaker. The boy was to remain with

Head for three and one-half years, and at the end of his apprenticeship he would receive from the master craftsman a joiner, foreplane, jack and smoothing plane.

An interesting court order dated May 9, 1809 stipulates "that Jesse Head be and he is hereby appointed to make and hang shutters to the lower windows in the Court House."

A small mahogany bureau measuring 18" x 24", the product of Jesse Head's cabinetmaking shop, is today extant. It was made in 1836 for the uncle of Mrs. M. E. Sharp (1921) of Mercer County, Kentucky.

This information, documentary and otherwise, fairly well established Jesse Head as a cabinetmaker; and the fact that Thomas Lincoln lived in Washington County and was for awhile (Fall of 1786 to the turn of the century) a close neighbor of Jesse Head, would provide him with ample time and opportunity to learn the trade of a carpenter and cabinetmaker.

The following pieces of Lincoln furniture, exclusive of cupboards, are known to be extant and are listed here as examples of Thomas Lincoln's handiwork:



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation
Cherry hutch made by Thomas Lincoln for Richard Vernon about the year 1807. Now owned by Mrs. L. B. Hoke of Elizabethtown, Kentucky.

AUCTION
TUESDAY, MAY 24, 1:30 p. m.
Antiques, Furniture, China, Silverware

We have contracted with the McCullum Realty Co. to sell all of personal property of the late Mrs. E. Sweets at her home located at 212 Mulberry Street, Elizabethtown, Kentucky.

One Cherry Day Bed

One of the finest pieces we will sell is a Cherry Day Bed which was made by Thomas Lincoln, father of Abraham Lincoln, authenticity is supported by original affidavit executed by Mrs. Emma Churchill, granddaughter of Richard Vernon for whom the bed was originally made by the said Thomas Lincoln.

Antiques

Larry bed with two chairs to match, pear figurines, clock, China candelabra, fruit bowl, vase, water service with 2 goblets, walnut table, spinning wheel, china glass, and other small items.

Furniture

Dish, 3 drawers, chest of drawers, 2 rockers, day bed, hall tree, 2 wash stands, 3 beds, 2 bunk cases, vanity dresser, 8 large rug, radio, electric refrigerator, lamp, dining room table, breakfast table, coal range, kitchen cabinet, china cabinet, china silverware (serving), walnut table, 2 swings, 2 mirrors, dining room chairs, washing machine, picture frames, number of chairs, dishes, and many small items not mentioned.

First-Hardin National Bank,
 Evee. of Mary E. Sweets

McCullum Realty Co.
 H. ED. McCULLUM, JR., Auctioneer
 Phone 4332 Elizabethtown, Ky.
 "We Have Sold in 24 States and Canada"

From the Lincoln National Life Foundation
 Advertisement poster of Mary E. Sweets' sale announcing that the cherry day bed made by Thomas Lincoln will be sold at auction on May 24, 1949.

1. Cherry Hutch
Owned by Mrs. L. B. Hoke, Elizabethtown, Kentucky.
2. Cherry Day Bed
Owned by Mr. Howes Mead, Paintsville, Kentucky.
3. Cherry Sugar Chest
Owned by J. S. McMurtry, Lawrenceburg, Kentucky.
4. Pine Mantlepiece
Exhibited in the Lincoln Room of the Armor Center Officer's Open Mess, Fort Knox, Kentucky.
5. Cherry Desk and Bookcase
Owned by Mr. and Mrs. Townsend Taylor, South Bend, Indiana
6. Cherry Chest of Drawers
Owned by Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois.

Affidavits or descriptive information concerning the individual pieces of Thomas Lincoln's cabinetwork follow:

1. Cherry Hutch

Affidavit

"Mrs. Emma Churchill, being duly sworn, states that her grandfather, Richard Vernon, lived near Elizabethtown in Hardin County, Kentucky, and that he had Thomas Lincoln, the father of Abraham Lincoln, who was also living near Elizabethtown and working at his trade as carpenter, cabinet maker and wheelwright, make several pieces of furniture for him.

"She states that the said Thomas Lincoln made a cherry chest or side-

board for her grandfather. She well remembers seeing this piece of furniture in her grandfather's home and later in the home of her aunt, Mrs. Lou Vernon Dodge.

"Her grandfather, Richard Vernon, told her that Thomas Lincoln made said furniture about the year 1807 and he kept it in his own home until his death when it became the property of his daughter, Mrs. Lou Vernon Dodge, who owned it until her death in the year 1908. When the furniture of Mrs. Lou Vernon Dodge was sold at public auction just following her death this chest was purchased by Mrs. Bettie J. Martin of Elizabethtown, Ky. who has had it in her possession ever since that time.

"Mrs. Churchill further states that she can positively identify the chest as the same piece which was owned in her family for two generations and later by Mrs. Bettie J. Martin as the same piece which her grandfather told her was made by Thomas Lincoln (more than a hundred years ago) and that she knows said piece of furniture has never been out of the possession and ownership of the three parties named herein.

Signed: *Mrs. Emma Churchill*

Subscribed and sworn to before me by Mrs. Emma Churchill this October 17, 1927.

Signed: *L. K. English*

Notary Public Hardin County, Ky.
 My commission expires Feby. 19, 1928"

Mrs. Emma Churchill was the wife of Virgil H. Churchill who, for many years, conducted a jewelry store in Elizabethtown. The family lived on Main Cross Street (now West Dixie Avenue), moved away for some years, returning later to reside on College

Street, where Mrs. Churchill died. Her aunt, Mrs. Lou Dodge, mentioned in the affidavit, lived in a large residence on West Dixie Avenue, now owned by Mrs. R. V. Wathen. Mrs. Bettie Martin was the mother of Miss Maggie Martin and Mrs. Lawrence Richardson, whose property and household effects were sold on May 19, 1960. At this public auction the cherry hutch was sold to Mrs. L. B. Hoke for \$700.

2. Cherry Day Bed

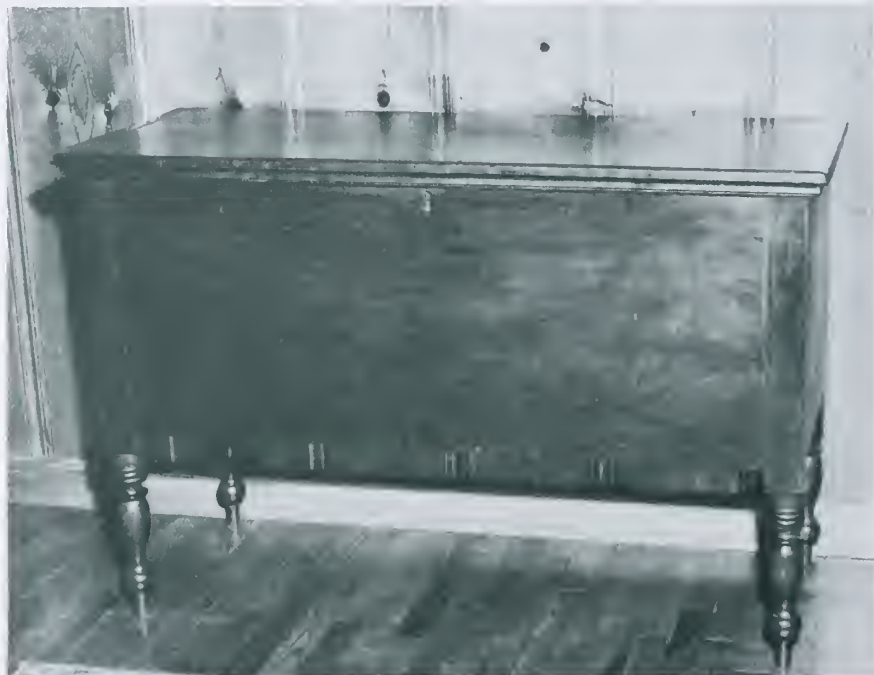
Another piece of furniture made by Thomas Lincoln for Richard Vernon was a cherry day bed, which was sold at public auction in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, on May 24, 1949. The bed was the property of the late Mary E. Sweets who resided at 212 Mulberry Street. Mr. Howes Meade of Paintsville, Kentucky bought this piece of furniture, the authenticity of which was attested by an affidavit executed by Mrs. Emma Churchill and similar in statement to the one regarding the cherry hutch.

3. Cherry Sugar Chest.

The cherry sugar chest owned by J. S. McMurtry of Lawrenceburg, Kentucky is said to have been made by Thomas Lincoln in 1796 or 1797 for the owner's great-great-grandmother, Margaret, the wife of Samuel Haycraft, Sr. An affidavit affirming the historical authenticity of the sugar chest follows:

Affidavit

"I, Joseph S. McMurtry, hereby certify that I was told by my father, G. E. McMurtry, who was in turn told by his mother, Sarah Maria McMurtry, the daughter of Samuel Haycraft, Jr., the son of Samuel Haycraft, Sr., that this cherry sugar chest was



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation
 Cherry sugar chest owned by J. S. McMurtry, Lawrenceburg, Kentucky, said to have been made by Thomas Lincoln for Mrs. Samuel Haycraft, Sr. of Elizabethtown, Kentucky in 1796 or 1797.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

Mantelpiece made by Thomas Lincoln in the Lincoln Room of the Armor Center Officer's Open Mess, at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

made for his wife Margaret Van Meter Haycraft during the winter of 1796-1797 at which time Thomas Lincoln was employed by the said Samuel Haycraft, Sr., as a millwright at Haycraft's grist mill at Elizabethtown, Ky.

Signed: J. S. McMurtry

Joseph S. McMurtry

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 24th day of April 1963.

Signed: S. McWilliams, Jr.
Notary Public

My commission expires January 9, 1964."

4. Mantelpiece

The mantelpiece (probably made of pine wood) in the Lincoln Room of the Armor Center Officer's Open Mess at Fort Knox, Kentucky, was taken from a house about one mile north (U.S. 31 W) of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, which was built in 1805 and was originally owned by Hardin Thomas. Samuel Haycraft, Jr., in his book "A History of Elizabethtown, Kentucky And Its Surroundings" written in 1869, made the statement that "He (Hardin Thomas) lived in a house rather better than usual for that day, the carpenter's work of which was executed by Thomas Lincoln, the father of the late President; and the most of that work is to be seen at this day, sound as a trout, although done upwards of sixty years ago." The Hardin Thomas house is still standing and is located on the farm of Heady Jenkins, the Elizabethtown Postmaster.

In the fall of 1919, when Camp

Knox was under construction, Major William Radcliffe, a construction quartermaster, lived with his family for a time in Elizabethtown in the home of Mrs. J. F. Albert, a great-grand-daughter of Hardin Thomas. From Mrs. Albert, Major Radcliffe learned of the Hardin Thomas house, and from Mr. B. F. Jenkins he secured for the United States Government the Thomas Lincoln mantelpiece. It was then installed in a building called "The Hostess House" at the army post.

After World War I the post was deactivated. Later on, a civilian who lived on the edge of the reservation thought the mantelpiece was in danger of being destroyed and had it removed from "The Hostess House" which had later become a Station Hospital. Without the authority of the United States Government, the mantelpiece was offered first to the Woman's Club at Elizabethtown on condition that it be installed in the Brown-Pusey Community House. However, Dr. William Allen Pusey, the donor of the community building, declined to let the mantelpiece be installed.

The relic was then offered to the Kentucky Pioneer Memorial Association of Harrodsburg, Kentucky, which readily accepted it. However, while the mantelpiece was on display it was not incorporated in the building known as the Mansion Museum, but was attached to the wall adjoining the Music Room.

In 1934, when the army post was again reactivated, a new Officers' Club was built and Col. J. P. Barney, who

was in command at Fort Knox, learned of the mantelpiece, possibly through construction quartermaster records. He took immediate steps to recover the mantelpiece and his claim to it could not be denied since government money had originally purchased it. Therefore, the mantelpiece came home to Fort Knox and now has a place of honor in what is known as "The Lincoln Room" of the Officer's Mess.

5. Cherry Desk and Bookcase

The cherry desk-bookcase owned by Mr. and Mrs. Townsend Taylor is best described by Forrest Fischer in the *LaPorte Herald-Argus* of April 4, 1949. At the time the article was written the Taylors resided at New Carlisle, Indiana. They are now residents of South Bend, Indiana. A portion of the newspaper article follows:

"Between 1816 and 1830 a farmer and trapper in Rockport, Ind., supplemented his income by building cabinets and furniture.

"His name was Thomas Lincoln, and as he worked tediously with his hands and tools to turn crude cherry wood into desks and cupboards his son, Abraham, watched and offered his help.

"The story of the Taylors' desk since it left the workshop of Tom Lincoln early in the 19th century is an interesting one.

"Rockport is the birthplace of Mr. Taylor, and his family seat. It was there Mr. Taylor's ancestors first obtained the desk and began passing it down from generation to generation.

"During its lifetime the desk has been used as a book case for law books, as a cabinet to store the powders and equipment of a druggist, in



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

Cherry desk and bookcase made by Thomas Lincoln and exhibited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Townsend Taylor of South Bend, Indiana.

the kitchen of a southern Indiana housewife who kept it well stocked with dishes and food, and it finally returned to its designated use as a desk kept carefully polished in the Taylor family at New Carlisle.

"Mr. Taylor tells this story:

"The first practicing doctor in Spencer county, a Dr. Crook, is charged to be the first owner of the desk after it was completed by Thomas Lincoln.

"Dr. Crook used the desk for many years in his office as a writing table, but upon retiring passed the desk on to Judge Thomas DeBruler.

"Judge DeBruler, a well-known attorney in southern Indiana at the time, and a contemporary of Abraham Lincoln, who was practicing law in Springfield, Ill., was Mr. Taylor's great grandfather, according to the story.

"The Judge used the tall cabinet of the desk in which to stack thick, dusty law books. He passed the desk on to Dr. A. D. Garlinghouse, a druggist and doctor in Rockport. Dr. Garlinghouse used the desk as a supply cabinet for medicants and prescriptions.

"As Dr. Garlinghouse's practice grew and he enlarged his office quarters he moved the desk to his residence in Rockport. There his wife, the former . . . Taylor, placed the desk on a screened-in kitchen-porch to use for the storage of food dishes and kitchen utensils.

"According to Mr. Taylor, the Garlinghouses were his grandparents on his mother's side. They donated the desk to Mr. and Mrs. Taylor.

"Although its exact age is not known it is well over 100 years old. The Taylors have received offers from several Lincoln collectors, including the Ford museum, to buy the desk.

"The Taylors, however, vow that they will never sell the desk. Although it is not pretty it is the symbol of early American life and struggle.

"The desk stands about eight feet high from the floor to the top of the cabinet section. The cabinet section is designed as a book case and is enclosed by two glass doors.

"The desk compartments for letters and writing materials are concealed under the desk top which raises up on hinges. There are no drawers in the desk. It is made of solid cherry wood which has never been painted or varnished, the Taylors claim."

6. Cherry Chest of Drawers

The inlaid cherry chest of drawers is without a doubt the most beautiful of all the Thomas Lincoln furniture described in this article. It is now the property of Southern Illinois University, a gift of Philip D. Sang of Chicago, Illinois.

The chest was made by Thomas Lincoln for the Austin family of

Hardin County, Kentucky and later became the property of the Harbolts and Atchers, all of whom are well known families living in the vicinity of Elizabethtown, Kentucky.

An affidavit attesting to its origin follows:

Affidavit

"Mrs. Crit Atcher, being duly sworn, states that according to statements made by the several members of the Atcher family, a cherry, five drawer, inlaid chest of drawers now owned by Bell Smoot of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, was made by Thomas Lincoln, father of Abraham Lincoln.

"She further states that according to the statements of the family that the chest was made by Thomas Lincoln for the Austin family. It descended to the Harbolt family and later to the Atcher family who sold it to the present owner, Bell Smoot.

"Mrs. Atcher states that she can identify the chest as the same one sold to Bell Smoot and that the chest has never been out of the ownership and possession of the three families named in the affidavit.

Signed: *Clara Atcher*

May 29, 1960

State of Kentucky
County of Hardin

Subscribed and sworn to before me a Notary Public for the county and State above written.

Signed: *Joe G. Gafford*
Notary Public

My commission expires Dec. 31, 1962."

Mr. Bell Smoot who purchased the chest of drawers had the piece in his possession about forty years before securing the above affidavit. During the entire period that he owned it he was under the impression that the chest had been made by Thomas Lincoln.

There are several other miscellaneous pieces of furniture in Kentucky and Indiana that were made by Thomas Lincoln, but at this late date all the records concerning them have been lost. In fact, the editor knows of several so-called pieces of Thomas Lincoln furniture in Kentucky that have all the earmarks of being genuine, but because they lack authentication they cannot be included in this study.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

Inlaid cherry chest of drawers made by Thomas Lincoln and exhibited at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois.

CUBBAGE & CUBBAGE

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

LEITCHFIELD, KY.

ALLEN P. CUBBAGE
THOMAS H. CUBBAGE

April 10, 1964

Mr. Gerald McMurtry,
Lincoln National Life Ins. Co.,
Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Dear Gerald:

I have been intending for quite some time to write you, as I wanted to thank you for having my name placed upon the list to receive Lincoln Lore bulletins. I enjoy reading these as I am rather historically inclined. I received a letter from a lady some several weeks ago stating that my name was being put on the list to receive the bulletins, and I wish you would thank her for me as I do not now recall her name.

I have traced out our relationship and I believe that it is accurate. Your great-grandmother, Eliza Wortham McMurtry, was a sister to my grandmother, Henrietta W. Thomas. Your grandfather's name was James W. McMurtry, and your father's name was Robert T. McMurtry. My mother's name was Martha Thomas Cubbage and therefore, your grandfather and my mother were first cousins. I believe that this works out to a relationship that your father and I are third cousins and I think that would make you and me fourth cousins.

I am glad to be related to you by blood and would enjoy meeting you at some time.

Again thanking you, and the lady from whom I received the letter, for the Lincoln Lore bulletins, I am

Sincerely yours,

Allen

ALLEN P. CUBBAGE

APC:res

April 14, 1964

Mr. Allen P. Cabbage
Cabbage & Cabbage
Leitchfield, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Cabbage:

I was pleased to have your letter of April 10th and to learn that you are receiving our Lincoln Lore bulletins. It pleases me that you find them interesting.

It is also interesting to me that we are fourth cousins. Like you I am pleased to know that we are related and I hope that at some future time we will be able to get acquainted. Perhaps the next time I pass through Leitchfield, Kentucky I will make it a point to pay you a visit.

Knowing that you are historically inclined I am sending you under separate cover a pamphlet entitled "Beardless Portraits of Abraham Lincoln". I hope that you enjoy reading this pamphlet.

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGM/hcs

Hardin County Enterprise

10 CENTS
SINGLE COPY

ELIZABETHTOWN, KENTUCKY, FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 1964

NUMBER 49

Watershed Over Its Last Hurdle; Next Move Up To Local People

The Valley Creek Watershed project is finally ready to be moved from the paper to the working stage.

The project, the first plans for which were drawn some two years ago, cleared its last hurdle in Washington on Thursday when it was approved by the House Agriculture Committee.

"Now it's up to the people here to get busy and start some work," said Charles Huffman, director of the project for the City of Elizabethtown. "That federal money is available," Mr. Huffman continued, "for several projects. Somebody else could beat us to the money if we don't get busy, and we would have to wait a year for another appropriation."

The project will cost the Federal Government \$1,801,510 and the City of Elizabethtown \$346,930.

Mr. Huffman said the next step is to appraise the land to be taken for the four lakes — about 500 acres in all — and buy it. "Then we could let a contract, and the Federal Government would kick in with their share. But the first move is up to us," he stated.

Mr. Huffman said he expects the City to sell bonds soon to acquire its part of the money for the projects. Bonds will be retired through a 10 per cent increase in current water rates. It is the City's task to purchase land and acquire easements for the four impoundments.

The Federal Government will put \$454,000 into the immediate project. The rest will be spent over a period of about five years on conservation practices with individual farmers on a cost-share basis.

The \$900,000 project will provide four earth-filled dams to control the water on Valley Creek, Buffalo Creek and Freeman Creek.

Covers 58,000 Acres

The watershed covers an area of 58,000 acres in Hardin county. All of this land in the watershed is privately owned, within the watershed there are 454 farms, and portions of farms, and of this number 279 have cooperative agreements with the Hardin County Soil Conservation District and 100 have basic conservation plans.

Four Lakes Planned

The plan calls for four lakes or structures. Three of these structures are for flood control. The other structure is a multiple purpose structure which also has flood control water storage for the city of Elizabethtown (300,000,000 gallons) and recreation.

The recreation facilities will include a 100 acre lake, 40 acres developed for picnicking with parking areas, boat dock, shelter and toilet facilities. The multiple purpose structure will be constructed on Freeman's Creek and the flood control structures on Buffalo (two) and Valley Creeks.

PUBLISHED EACH TUESDAY AND THURSDAY

THE ELIZABETHTOWN NEWS, THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1964

Watershed Land Purchase To Start Construction Planned Next Spring

Mayor Leonard T. Bean said that within three or four weeks the city of Elizabethtown hopes to start purchasing ground for the proposed Valley Creek Watershed.

Property owners along Freeman Creek just north of the city likely will be contacted first because the multi-purpose dam located on this creek probably will be constructed first. Water to be impounded by this structure not only will provide additional water for the city but it will serve the purpose of flood control and also be developed for

recreation, the mayor said.

A total of four dams make up the watershed. The dam on Valley Creek northeast of the city will be the second dam to be constructed if the city council votes to lead off with Freeman Creek structure, according to the mayor.

Mayor Bean said he was advised by Mr. A. B. Rogers, assistant state conservationist, that work on the first dam could not be started until next spring. The watershed is jointly sponsored by the Hardin County Soil Conservation District

and the City of Elizabethtown.

Plans and specifications are prepared by the Soil Conservation people but the City must acquire and bear cost of land purchased for the watershed. Federal funds will be made available to pay a small portion of land cost where the multi-purpose dam is located.

Mayor Bean said he was hopeful that both the Freeman Creek and Valley Creek dams could be built next year.

Principal delay now is the de-

velopment of the final plans and the preparation of specifications which will be used in awarding the construction contract. This work is done by Soil Conservation personnel and will require five or six months as crews must do much work at the watershed site. A certain amount of time will be needed to contact landowners, Mayor Bean added, but preliminary maps will be furnished by the Soil Conservation office in Lexington to guide the city in its land purchase project.

JOE CREASON'S KENTUCKY



A LIST of 16 names of former Hardin County landowners may contain the key to unlock a long-standing mystery: Was Thomas Lincoln—as local tradition holds—the builder of a log house standing near Elizabethtown? Although the father of the 16th President was a carpenter, there otherwise is no known building left in Kentucky constructed by him, and for that reason the matter is important historically.

The 15 names are of persons who sold parcels of land that eventually comprised the estate of Governor John L. Helm. The house, a two-story log structure now covered with clapboard, was built around 1809 for Hardin Thomas on land that years later was acquired by the Helm family. It is hoped by the Hardin County Historical Society, the group pressing the investigation, that relatives of the original landowners may have some handed-down information about the house. The earlier landowners were Frank Daggins, Walter A., Cosby E., Virginia L. and W. A. Vaughn, Mary C. Miller, Lizzie Bruce, Alexander Thweatt, Catherine and Ben H. Helm, Z. D. Baird, J. C. Montgomery, W. H. Adams, Paralee A. Seng and George W. French.



Thomas Lincoln

The historical society and the house's present owner, A. H. Jenkins, would like to see it restored to its original appearance to serve as a tourist attraction. In his "History of Elizabethtown," written in 1869, Samuel Craycraft stated flatly that Thomas Lincoln built the place. But positive proof never has been nailed down; that's what the historical society is trying to do now.



JOE CREASON'S KENTUCKY

Not Lincoln Built?

SOME WEEKS back I wrote about efforts being made in Elizabethtown to dig up proof that—as tradition holds—Thomas Lincoln, father of the 16th President, built a log house that still stands on the edge of town. According to the old wives' tales, he built the house around 1809 for Hardin Thomas. However, Allen P. Cabbage, a Leitchfield attorney and the

great-great-grandson of Hardin Thomas, disputes the idea. Basing his opinion on the story as handed down in his family, Cabbage contends that the house was erected some years before 1809, and that Lincoln finished it by adding the cabinets and mantles, but did not actually build it.

"It is possible he may have built the house," Cabbage says, "but it isn't likely because Thomas Lincoln essentially was a cabinet maker rather than a house builder."

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Cullough

October 8, 1964

Mr. Allen P. Cabbage
Attorney
Leitchfield, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Cabbage:

I have before me the Courier-Journal, September 29, 1964, which contains "Joe Creason's Kentucky" column. I noted with interest that you are a great-great-grandson of Hardin Thomas, an early Elizabethtown and Hardin County resident.

I fear that I cannot agree with you that Thomas Lincoln was not essentially a house builder but rather a cabinet maker. He was both carpenter and cabinet maker.

The best information that we have relative to the Hardin Thomas house is to be found in Samuel Haycraft, Jr's "A History of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, and its Surroundings," written in 1869. On page 123, Chapter XXXII, Haycraft made the following statement: "He (Hardin Thomas) lived in a house rather better than usual for that day, the carpenter work of which was executed by Thomas Lincoln, the father of the late President; and the most of that work is to be seen at this day, sound as a trout, although done upwards of sixty years ago."

Another Haycraft reference appears on page 55 of the Elizabethtown history as follows;

"He (Jack Thomas) was born on the 7th day of February, 1790. His father resided in a house the joiner's work of which was done by Thomas Lincoln, father of the President."

A final reference to Thomas Lincoln as a builder of houses appears on page 74 of Haycraft's history: "After this time similar buildings were erected by George Berry, Jacob Bruner, Samuel Patton,

Mr. Cabbage
Page Two
October 8, 1964

Mrs. Jane Ewin, Mrs. Boling, Mrs. Llewellyn, Thomas Lincoln (father of the President), James Crutcher, Asa Coombs, Thomas Davis, Henry Ewin, James Love and David Vance."

I think you may be correct in stating that the house was built before 1809. I have a reference attesting that the Hardin Thomas House was built in 1805.

It is most remarkable that a house that Thomas Lincoln built should still be standing. Elizabethtown is indeed fortunate that such a valuable historic relic has been preserved.

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RCM/hcs
CC: Mr. Creason

CUBBAGE & CUBBAGE

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

LEITCHFIELD, KY.

**ALLEN P. CUBBAGE
THOMAS H. CUBBAGE**

October 13, 1964

Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry,
1301 So. Harrison St.,
Ft. Wayne, Ind. 46801

Dear Gerald:

I was glad to receive your letter of October 8, and we must have been thinking along the same line at the same time. The very day that I received your letter I had brought with me to my office from my home a clipping of the issue of the Courier-Journal in which Joe Creason made mention of having received a letter from me in regard to the home of Hardin Thomas. I was bringing the clipping to the office to send to you, as it related to the Lincoln family, but having received your letter I will not enclose the clipping as you probably already saved that yourself. However, I have two copies of this clipping and if you would like to have one of them, I would be glad to send it to you if you will let me know.

Now, as to the time the Hardin Thomas house was erected...I note your comments from Haycraft's History of Elizabethtown. I have had this book for many years and when I first acquired it I read it through, and over the years I have re-read portions of it. It may be that I am mistaken as to whether Thomas Lincoln was a house-builder or just a cabinet maker, but I think the information which I received directly from my grandfather, Henry Clay Thomas, who was a son of Jack Thomas, is more accurate than a book which Samuel Haycraft, Jr. or anyone else might have written in the year 1869. The year that Samuel Haycraft wrote his history was nearly 80 years after Jack Thomas was born, and I repeat that a son of Jack Thomas, who was a son of Hardin Thomas, would know more about it than someone writing a book more than 80 years after the house was built.

I note that in the next to the last paragraph in your letter you say that you have a reference attesting that the Hardin Thomas house was built in 1805. That is bound to be an error because Jack Thomas was born in the house in question, and for that reason the Hardin Thomas house had to have been built at some time prior to the year 1790 which was the year of the birth of Jack Thomas in that house.

Even Samuel Haycraft, Jr. says, as quoted in your letter, that the father of Jack Thomas resided in a house "the joiner work of which was done by Thomas Lincoln". If you will consult any unabridged

Mr. R. Gerald McNurtry,
October 13, 1964

- 2 -

dictionary you will find that the word "joiner" is defined to be "one who, or ~~that~~ which, joins; a special artisan who finishes the woodwork for houses".

This is not, of course, a controversy between us, but there can be no doubt that the Hardin Thomas house was built at some time prior to the year 1790, rather than in 1805, for the reason, as I repeat, that Jack Thomas was born in that house in the year 1790.

I am always glad to hear from you and if you would like to have one of the clippings which I have wherein the building of the Hardin Thomas house is mentioned, please let me know and I will be glad to send it to you.

With kind regards, I am

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Allen P. Cuppage". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

ALLEN P. CUPPAGE

APC:res

Mr. Allen P. Cabbage
Cabbage & Cabbage
Attorneys at Law
Leitchfield, Kentucky

The earliest date that can be established for Thomas Lincoln was in 1777 when he was born in Hardin County, Kentucky. He was born on a hill near the town of Leitchfield, Kentucky, on October 15, 1964.

Mr. Allen P. Cabbage
Cabbage & Cabbage
Attorneys at Law
Leitchfield, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Cabbage:

I have your letter of October 13th relative to the Hardin Thomas House located in Elizabethtown, Kentucky. I also have before me a sketch on Jack Thomas prepared by you (April 9, 1940) for "Who Was Who in Hardin County" published by the Hardin County Historical Society in 1946. Unfortunately, there is no sketch in this work about Hardin Thomas. I suppose there was not sufficient information available. I note that in 1940 (Jack Thomas sketch) you made the statement that "The house in which Jack Thomas was born was built by the father of Abraham Lincoln, and it is probable that they were acquainted."

My interest in this question is to establish Thomas Lincoln as the builder of the Hardin Thomas House. If this can be done, and if the house is preserved on its original site, an interesting shrine will be added to Kentucky's long list of historic homes. If Lincoln really did construct the Thomas House, this will attest to his ability as a carpenter and cabinetmaker.

As to the word "joiner" there may be some argument. In other historical references, which I cannot locate just now, I have taken the word to mean a carpenter who made the structure of a house - before nails were available - when timbers were joined together by pegs rather than by nails. Perhaps the word can be loosely used to mean structural work as well as finishing work.

If you are correct in stating that Jack Thomas was born in the Hardin Thomas House on February 7, 1790 this eliminates Thomas Lincoln from the Elizabethtown scene. Kentucky historians contend that Thomas Lincoln was born in 1776. Abraham Lincoln thought his father was born in 1778. If the first date is correct Thomas Lincoln was 14 years old in 1790. If the latter date is correct Thomas Lincoln was 12 years old.

Mr. Cabbage
October 15, 1964
Page Two

The earliest date that can be established that Thomas Lincoln was in Hardin County is July 13, 1797 when he was paid \$9.56 by Samuel Haycraft, Senior, for work on a mill race and mill dam. Lincoln was at this time 21 years old.

About forty-five years ago Mrs. R. W. Cates of Elizabethtown, Kentucky prepared a paper about old houses in Elizabethtown. This following information is taken from her paper.

"Next comes the house built by Hardin Thomas in 1805 on the farm just off the North Dixie Highway now operated by Heady Jenkins. The carpenter work was done by Thomas Lincoln and this year (1919) the mantel from this house has been installed in the library of the Officers' Mess at Fort Knox. The father of Mrs. Sally Smith (Mrs. J. F. Albert's mother) now more than 90 years old, was born there. This is a frame house, log within."

I think our whole problem centers around where (not when) Jack Thomas was born. If he was born in the Hardin Thomas House then Thomas Lincoln did not construct it. If Jack Thomas was born in some other house on February 7, 1790, then Thomas Lincoln must have built the Hardin Thomas House in 1805 or some other later date. Samuel Haycraft, Junior, does not say Jack Thomas was born in the Hardin Thomas House. While I do not wish to impugn the statement of your grandfather, Henry Clay Thomas, the recorded history of Samuel Haycraft, Junior, written in 1869 is pretty convincing evidence.

I enclose Lincoln Lore No. 1456, June, 1959, relative to the remark Lincoln made about the handwriting of Jack Thomas, Ben Helm and William Farleigh.

In going through our manuscripts I find one original document signed by Hardin Thomas. We have several signed by Jack Thomas.

In conclusion, is there not some slight possibility that Thomas Lincoln built the Hardin Thomas House after the birth of Jack Thomas on February 7, 1790? If not, why did Haycraft write what he did and why have the legends and traditions about the Thomas House prevailed all these years?

I still hope to visit you in Leitchfield one of these days.

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RCM/hcs
Enc. LL



JOE CREASON'S KENTUCKY

THE more I sit and stare at TV, the more I realize that if the people I see on the tube during the commercial interludes are typical, then I'm far from being a 100 percent normal American male. Unlike the guys in the ads, I don't grin from ear to ear while I shave; in fact, I'm so pragmatic I don't even fall over in surprise to know there's a giant in our washing machine and a horde of little men skating around on scouring pads in the oven of our kitchen range.

The easy-open cereal boxes, which toddler-age children zip apart and fit back together so easily on behalf of the sponsors, make me suspect my quota of fingers is all left thumbs. When I feel the vapors or some other misery approaching, I seldom bounce back after taking just one of those fizz tablets. I've been man enough to use that particular brand of hair dressing for years and I'm still waiting to be mobbed by the ladies.

Why do I admit to all these abnormalities? Well, maybe such a confession will help you understand how I could be guilty of a breach of good grammar like the one two weeks ago when I dropped the phrase "... woe unto he ..." into an item. I guess even my pronouns are showing the effect of my having disregarded the TV warning about the consequences if I continued to use that messy Brand X smear-on deodorant.

Scratch, Scratch

IF THE STUDENTS contacted in a survey conducted for the school newspaper, The Eagle, in the American government class at Eastern High School, Middletown, mirror the sentiment of their parents, then the November 3 presidential election is going to be marked by more scratching than you'd find in a dog pound. Although the area generally is regarded as strongly Republican, 67 percent of the students favored Johnson and only 30 percent Goldwater, with the others undecided. On the other hand, Republican Gene Snyder passed Democrat Charles Farnsley in the Third District Congressional race 72 percent to 27 percent. The school-tax referendum was favored 59.5 percent to 40.5 percent.

Easy To Forget

IN ALL their campaigning, I doubt if either of the Presidential hopefuls will come across a rebuff with a note of finality in it equal to the one an old man in Marshall County hung on a candidate running for a local office. The old man never had

liked the candidate and he was waiting for him when he came to campaign at his home.

"I hope," the candidate said in leaving, "you won't forget to vote for me."

"I won't forget you," the old gent spat. "I already done it!"

Thomas Lincoln, Builder

TO CONTINUE in an historical vein, maybe you'll recall the several items I've used about efforts in Elizabethtown to determine if, as tradition holds, Thomas Lincoln, father of the 16th President, really built a house still standing on the edge of town. A short time back I printed



R. G. McMurtry

a letter from Allen P. Cabbage of Leitchfield, a great-grand-grandson of the man for whom the house was built, in which he doubted Lincoln did the work, since he was a cabinet maker, not a house builder.

Now R. Gerald McMurtry, director of the Lincoln National Life Foundation of Fort Wayne, Ind., has entered the controversy. "I fear that I cannot agree with you that Thomas Lincoln was not essentially a house builder but rather a cabinet maker," he wrote to Cabbage. "He was both." McMurtry, an Elizabethtown native, went on to cite various historical references to support his belief Lincoln built the log structure. "It is most remarkable that a house that Thomas Lincoln built should still be standing," he concluded. "Elizabethtown is indeed fortunate that such a valuable historic relic has been preserved."

Thought For Today

THE KENTUCKY Commission on Employment of the Handicapped has issued a plea that touches on something that probably never has entered the mind of many of us: Don't bar the handicapped from buildings by constructing architectural barriers such as long flights of stairs, revolving doors, narrow door-ways, out-of-reach water fountains, inaccessible elevators and parking places too far distant from entry points. The commission holds that, to be usable by Kentucky's 300,000 handicapped persons, a building should include at least one entrance at ground level, a ramp in addition to stairs, doors at least 32 inches wide and restrooms that can accommodate wheelchair users.

209 Elizabeth St.
Elizabethtown, Ky.

Dear Gerald:

When I saw your face and name in Joe Creason's column in the Courier-Journal this morning I was reminded that I had never sent you the snap-shots of the Hardin Thomas house. As far as I know nothing further has been done here about it.

A member of the Latter Day Saints is here microfilming the old Hardin County records. We have given the marriage records a good going over and found a record on which Thomas Lincoln was the bondsman. This was dated 1815 but I have forgotten the names of the couple. If you are interested I can look it up for you. This man is doing the deeds to about 1900, the wills and marriages to 1915, the county court orders to about 1880 and several miscellaneous books. I, for one, am delighted to have some one do this.

I do hope we can get something done to save the Hardin Thomas house.

Sincerely,

Margaret D. Richerson

P.S. I would buy another copy of LINCOLN AND THE LINCOLNS for our other daughter if you ever see another advertised.

October 27, 1964

Mrs. Margaret S. Richerson
209 Elizabeth Street
Elizabethtown, Kentucky

Dear Margaret:

I was delighted to have your letter of recent date enclosing the photographs of the Hardin-Thomas House which Thomas Lincoln is alleged to have constructed. I am indeed pleased to have these photographs to place in my files.

I note with interest that you saw my name mentioned in Joe Creason's column in the Courier-Journal. I am hoping that through the column and through other news media we can call attention to the fact that Elizabethtown has a building of considerable historic interest which should be preserved.

You mention in your letter that you have discovered a marriage record on which Thomas Lincoln was the bondsman dated 1815. I am interested in knowing more about that record and I would appreciate receiving a copy of it some time when you find it convenient to work in those files.

The next time I see Harvey Harold Smith's book LINCOLN AND THE LINCOLNS advertised for sale, I will notify you.

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGM/hcs

(reason)

RECEIVED
NOV 10 1964

November 10, 1964

Mr. Joe Creason
Courier-Journal
Louisville, Kentucky

Dear Joe:

As you have devoted some space to the discussion of the Hardin Thomas - Thomas Lincoln House in Elizabethtown, Kentucky in three different issues of your column, I take it that you are interested.

I have prepared a rather complete statement regarding the house, thinking that some day you might want to do a feature story on the subject for your "Magazine".

As you likely know, the house is located just north of the Helm place at the north (31W) of Elizabethtown - just barely out of the city limits. The log house is covered by weather-boarding outside and ceiling inside. However, it has an ancient appearance and would make a good photograph for your article if you are interested.

Likely you will also want to make a photograph of the mantle-piece taken from the Thomas House. It is located in the Armor Center Officer's Open Mess at Fort Knox.

I want no credit for the material I am sending to you. Please use it in any way you see fit. What I hope to do is to arouse the interest of the people in Elizabethtown to the point that they will take steps to provide for the preservation of the historic site.

From my letter and article you will recognize that I do sincerely think that Thomas Lincoln built the house.

If you should do an article on "the house that Thomas Lincoln built" I will be glad to assist you in any way I can.

Mr. Creason
Page Two
Nov. 10, 1964

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGM/hcs

P. S. I read with interest your comments on the Custer tablet on the Brown-Pusey House. Of course, the wording is incorrect. Custer never made his headquarters there. Please do not quote me on this point. I have already said too much.

I have prepared a letter to the editor of the Lincoln Bulletin, asking that you do not want to be a feature story on the subject for your "Bulletin".

As you likely know, the house is located just north of the city limits. The log house is covered by weatherboarding outside and siding inside. However, it has an ancient appearance and would make a good background for your article if you are interested.

Likely you will also want to make a photograph of the building taken from the Brown House. It is located in the same corner of the lot as the house.

I want no credit for the material I am sending to you. Please use it in any way you like. What I hope to do is to provide the interest of the people in Elizabethan to the public and they will take steps to provide for the preservation of the historic site.

From my letter and article you will recognize that I do sincerely think that Thomas Lincoln built the house.

If you should do an article on "The House that Thomas Lincoln built", I will be glad to assist you in any way I can.

CUBBAGE & CUBBAGE

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

LEITCHFIELD, KY.

ALLEN P. CUBBAGE
THOMAS H. CUBBAGE

November 23, 1964

Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry,
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
1301 So. Harrison,
Fort Wayne, Ind. 46801

Dear Gerald:

First, I want to offer apologies for not having answered your letter of October 15, 1964 before this time. Since your letter was received I have been rather busy and have yielded to the inclination to let a reply to your letter wait in view of the fact that the matter discussed in your letter was not urgent.

It seems that there is considerable contradiction upon the question as to when the Hardin Thomas house was built, and I note your suggestion that the problem centers around where (not when) Jack Thomas was born. I believe that both "when" and "where" Jack Thomas was born enters into the matter, but I repeat that there is considerable conflict revolving around both questions.

Certainly I would be glad if the house where my great-grandfather, Jack Thomas, was born could be made a shrine. Naturally, and I think, logically, what my grandfather, who was both an intelligent and honorable man, said in regard to this is true and accurate. However, if you want to collect the evidence and leave out of it what I have said as to what my grandfather told me, I will take no offense. If the other evidence which you have, without the contradiction by the evidence which I have, would lead to the establishing of the Hardin Thomas house as a shrine, it may be that in that way it can be established as an historical shrine.

I enjoy reading the Lincoln Lore bulletins which I receive occasionally and appreciate your kindness in having them sent to me.

With continued good wishes, I am

Yours truly,



ALLEN P. CUBBAGE

AFC:res

December 2, 1964

Mr. Allen P. Cabbage
Cabbage & Cabbage
Attorney at Law
Leitchfield, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Cabbage:

I was pleased to have your letter of November 23rd. It is quite true that our topic of discussion is not urgent in that we are dealing with events dating back to 1790.

I do not question the date of Jack Thomas' birth as being February 7, 1790. This is the reason I stated in my letter of October 15th that we cannot be concerned with the "when" because the date is an established fact. The "where" Jack Thomas was born was to my mind a questionable subject. Again I will state that if Jack Thomas was born in the log house in question then Thomas Lincoln did not build it. In 1790 Thomas Lincoln was either 12 or 14 years old - much too young to build a fine log house.

I can realize why you would not question your grandfather's statements regarding the log house as the place of Jack Thomas' birth.

Of course, I do not want to proceed with the preservation of the house if your evidence is ignored. This would be perpetrating a fraud.

In conclusion, I would say that if your evidence is correct this puts an end to the project and the Thomas House will not and should not be established as an historic shrine.

I am pleased that you enjoy reading the Lincoln Lore bulletins.

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGM/hcs

CUBBAGE & CUBBAGE

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

LEITCHFIELD, KY.

**ALLEN P. CUBBAGE
THOMAS H. CUBBAGE**

December 22, 1964

Mr. Gerald McMurtry,
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Gerald:

I am sorry that I have not been able to get around sooner to acknowledging your letter of December 2, 1964, which I was glad to receive.

Manifestly there is some confusion and contradiction with reference to whether Thomas Lincoln did the joiners work in the Hardin Thomas house near Elizabethtown. I am sure that you are correct in your statement that in 1790 Thomas Lincoln was a boy 12 or 14 years of age and which, I think, rules out any idea that he did any work at all at the Hardin Thomas house, unless in later years when Thomas Lincoln was old enough to do carpenter work, he may have done some cabinet work in the house, and may have made new mantels to go in that house. It seems to me that this is well within the range of possibility because regardless of who built the house originally, it was still there after Thomas Lincoln became old enough to do carpenter work and it seems to me that it could have happened that way, because the house is still there for that matter.

The information that I have had through the years and which has come down through members of my family who were in a position to know, was that Thomas Lincoln did some cabinet work in the house rather than building the house and of course that could have been done, as is heretofore stated, many years after the house was built.

I will be interested in hearing about any other information that you may obtain and which might lead to making the Hardin Thomas house a shrine. I would like to see that done, as a matter of course.

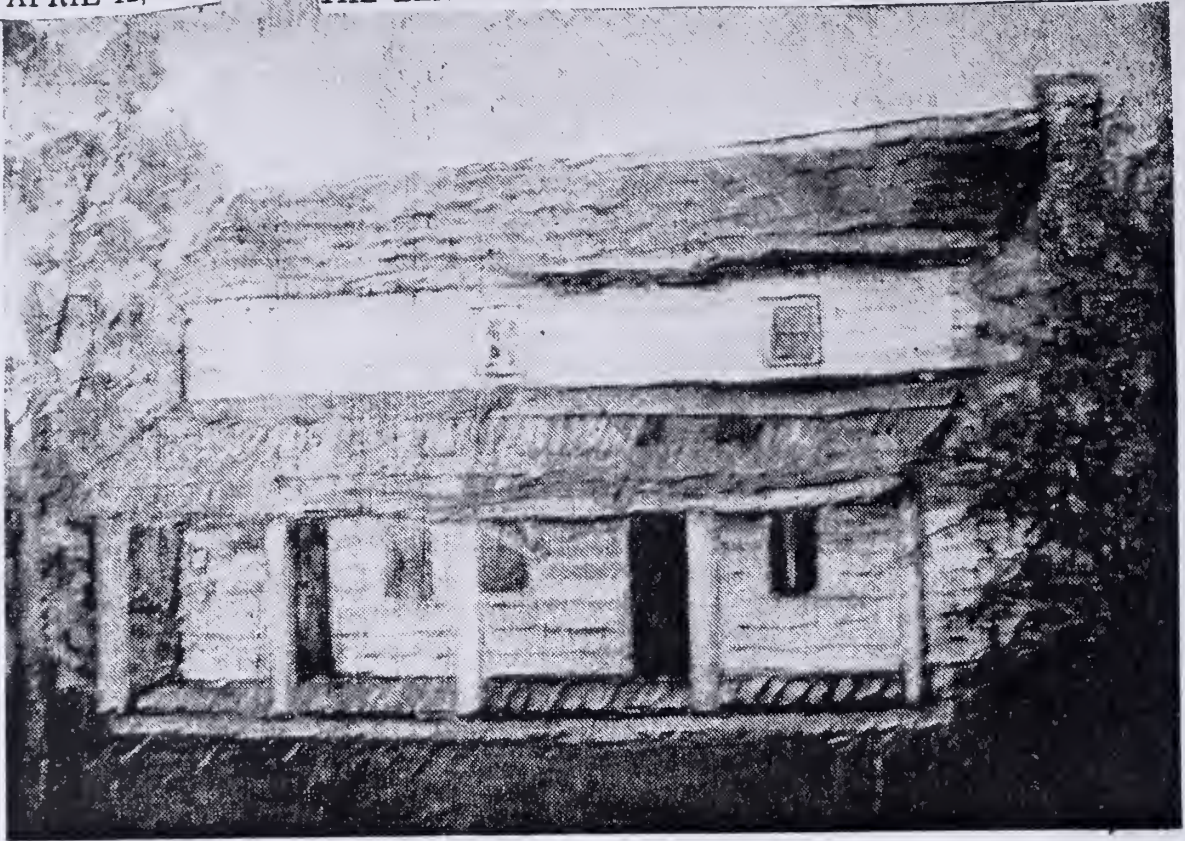
With kind regards and best wishes for the Holiday Season, I am

Yours truly,



ALLEN P. CUBBAGE

APC:res



This oil painting of the Hardin Thomas House was painted by Lib Faurest of Elizabethtown. It was purchased as a gift for Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Jenkins, the former owners of the site on which the house stands. The 166 acre farm on Freeman Creek was earlier owned by Mr Ben Franklin Jenkins, the late father of Mrs. L. C. Huffman and Mr. A. H. Jenkins.

Hardin Thomas House

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. To most casual observers, the two - story, six - room log house, started in 1805 and completed in 1809, is just a tumble-down shack. To historians and Chamber of Commerce members, it is an attraction for the much heralded tour of Kentucky.

The Hardin Thomas house is located a mile and a half from Elizabethtown, on 31-W, and was built by none other than Thomas Lincoln, father of Abraham Lincoln. It was recently bought by the City of Elizabethtown from Mr. A. H. Jenkins as a part of the 166 acre farm which will be the site of the city watershed and recreation park. It is hoped that as the site develops, it will include facilities for outdoor drama; a Lincoln Drama would indeed be enhanced by the house built by Thomas Lincoln for Hardin Thomas, one of the first settlers of Hardin County. At its most recent meeting, the Hardin County Historical Society voted unanimously to spearhead. A pre-

liminary clean-up of the property has already taken place.

A pine mantle from the Hardin Thomas house is in the Lincoln Room of the Officers Briek Club at Fort Knox, along with other memorabilia of that era. A bronze plaque on the mantle reads "Made by Thomas Lincoln 1805".

Dr. Gerald McMurty, a native of Elizabethtown who is Director of the Lincoln National Life Foundation of Fort Wayne, Indiana, quotes from page 123 of Haycraft's History of Elizabethtown as follows: "Hardin Thomas lived in a house better than usual for that day, the carpenters work of which was executed by Thomas Lincoln, father of the late President Abraham Lincoln; and the most of that work is to be seen at this day, sound as a trout, although done upwards of 60 years ago." Those words were written in 1869.

Dr. McMurty's personal comments are: "The Hardin Thomas house built by Thomas Lincoln

is one of the most important historic buildings in Kentucky. It is a priceless relic of an early pioneer, built by the father of the 16th president, the only building left which was constructed by the Elizabethtown carpenter and cabinet maker. Several pieces of furniture built by Lincoln are extant. I own a corner cupboard which he made that I value at \$10,000. A Thomas Lincoln corner cupboard (less valuable because it contains no identifying marks), built by Thomas Lincoln, has a sales record of \$5500. The sale was made several years ago.

"It is my sincere hope that the City of Elizabethtown, Hardin County or the U. S. Government will preserve this historic Thomas house."

Now that the Hardin County Historical Society has taken the first step toward restoring the famous house, we may expect that in time thousands of people from all over the country will visit the Elizabethtown area on which the Hardin Thomas house stands.

E.M.F.

Hardin County Men Fought With Clark

President Johnson visited the site of Fort Sackville, now Vincennes, on July 23 making The George Rogers Clark Memorial a National Monument.

Every great man has others behind him making possible his achievements, and this was so with George Rogers Clark. Did you know that some of his support came from our own Hardin County? Those frontiersmen from Hardin County went with General Clark through all the hardships of war, ice, overflowing rivers, and hunger to make a vital contribution to our independence and to the settlement of Kentucky.

As General Clark was never fully paid by either Virginia or the United States so some twenty-three years after "The expedition against the Wabash Indians" (as it is called in Hardin County Court Order Book A, August Term 1800 to June Term 1801) men were petitioning the Court for reimbursement for services rendered. They were asking from 1 pound, 15 shillings and 2 pence, to 18 pounds.

The men who petitioned the Court and produced satisfactory proof that they fought with General George R. Clark were:

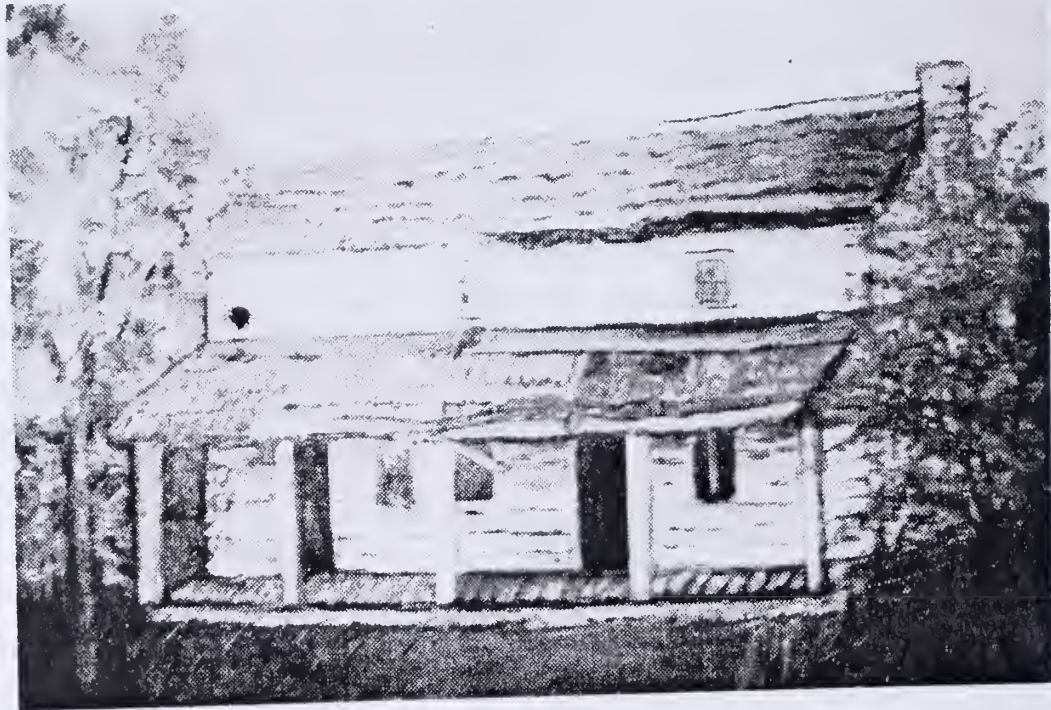
Thomas Amos, Thompson Ashby, Charles Burk, William Christian, Nicholas Coombes, William Cornelious, John Dial, Isarel Dodge, James Farkes, Abner Fields, Lewis Fields, Cane Fields, Isaac Goodwin, Henry Helm, Andrew House, Abraham Hunter, William Johnson, Robert Lashley, Jacob Pandal, Hardin Thomas, Uriah Thompson, Capt. Jacob Vanmetre, Capt. John Vertreese, William Wells and Thomas Winn.

Samuel Goodin asked to be reimbursed for furnishing unprepared beef, James Johnston for a bell impression and William Miller for one gun improvement.

As the Nation honors General George Rogers Clark, We, The Jacob Van Meter Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, wish to honor the men from Hardin County who fought beside him.

MONDAY, APRIL 3, 1967

Sale Planned As Money Maker To Restore Log House Here



"Anything that can be sold", is the plea used for soliciting articles for the gigantic Flea Market and Auction Sale to be held at the Hardin County Fair Grounds Saturday, April 29th, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

This sale, promoted by every civic organization in Hardin County with a committee of '30, is to raise funds to restore the old Hardin Thomas log house, now renamed the Lincoln Her-

itage House, located on Freeman Creek Reservoir, just southeast of the new Coca-Cola plant off 31-W. Boy Scout troops have already cleaned up the yard and adjacent area.

This two-story log house was built before the year 1790, and is one of the oldest houses in Hardin County, it is believed, with some very strong foundation of fact, that in 1805, Thomas Lincoln, father of Abraham, did the joiner's work inside this cabin.

The Hardin County Historical Society, spearheading the restoration, believe this will become a popular tourist attraction and museum of Lincolnana for Hardin County.

The auction committee is headed by Rufus Brandenburg. The committee will be glad to pick up toys, baked goods (including some of those delicious Hardin County jam cakes), furniture, tools, etc. Mrs. Louis Faurest, special gifts chairman, has already received a donation from Governor Breathitt, and promises of many more from other prominent citizens including Michigan's Governor Romney.

Photostatic copies of the original marriage bonds of Lincoln's parents, on file at the courthouse, will also be for sale.

Interested citizens wishing to donate may call Mrs. W. W. Perry, 765-7143, Mrs. Charles Rodgers, 765-5194, or Mrs. E. Richerson, 765-4661, and Boy Scouts will pick-up during the week of April 10th.

Joe Creason's Kentucky

Saving a Lincoln Landmark

AN AUCTION will be held in Elizabethtown Saturday for the commendable purpose of raising money to save what probably is the most important link in the story of the Lincoln family in Kentucky that hasn't already been preserved.

The link is a two-story log house on the north edge of town that was built for Hardin Thomas around 1809 by Thomas Lincoln, the father of the martyred 16th President.

The log house is important historically for many reasons, but mainly because it may be the only structure still standing in the state that was built by Thomas Lincoln. For while the elder Lincoln was a noted carpenter, he was known in his time as a skilled cabinet and mantle maker rather than as a house builder.

However, the Hardin County Historical Society is convinced that he did build the log house the auction is aimed at saving. And they're supported in their belief by one of the nation's leading Lincoln experts, R. Gerald McMurtry, an Elizabethtown native and director of the Lincoln National Life Foundation of Ft. Wayne, Ind.


"Thomas Lincoln was both a cabinet and a house builder," says McMurtry. "Elizabethtown is fortunate to have such a valuable historic relic."

The 158-year-old house, unoccupied for a year and now in bad repair, long ago was covered with clapboard, but the massive logs show through in the several places where this covering has broken away. The house stands on land the city has bought for a reservoir, and it and a small plot has been given to the Historical Society.

Saturday's auction will be held at an old soft-drink plant near the center of town and will start at 10:30 a.m. Nobody knows how much it will take to restore the house, but the round figure of \$10,000 is being talked. Articles to be offered for sale in the first effort to raise that sum, or more, include antiques, plants, home-baked goods and several Ray Harm prints, which suddenly have become collector items.



The old house in Elizabethtown that Thomas Lincoln built



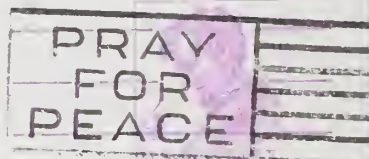
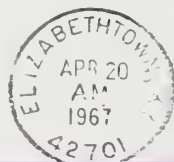
AUCTION Flea Market
Saturday, April 29 110 S. Main

ELIZABETHTOWN, KY.

**Selling . . . Antiques — Ray Harm Prints — Food
Clothing — Plants — Miscellaneous Items**

Proceeds to Restore

LINCOLN HERITAGE HOUSE—1809



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

MR. R. GERALD McMURTRY
910 W. RUDISILL BLVD.
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA 46807

MONDAY, MAY 1, 1967

HARDIN COUNTY ENTERPRISE, ELIZABETHTOWN, KENTUCKY

Auction Attracts Big Crowd; Proceeds Top \$2,600 Mark

Indeed, the Flea Market and Auction sale for the restoration of the Lincoln Heritage House held Saturday at the old Coca Cola Plant, was a huge success, with many "thank you's" to all who assisted.

Through the state-wide publicity received from the Kentucky Department of Public Information, newspapers and radio, buyers were here from Bardstown, Russellville, Glasgow, Murray, Campbellsville, Louisville, Hopkinsville, Hodgenville and throughout Hardin County. They appeared as soon as the place was opened at 9 a.m. to buy plants, clothing, rummage and home-made baked goods. The auction began with Kip Bowen at 10:30 and continued with John Greenwell, Francis Reesor and Henry Hodges until 6 p.m. (Reesor is shown in action, assisted by Graham Egerton and Henry Taylor.)

Total receipts at that time amounted to \$2598, with some not yet reported. The plant booth netted \$53, the food booth, manned by the D.A.R., about \$200, and the clothing and rummage sale supervised by Mrs. Edmund Richerson, Mrs. Henry Faurest and Mrs. Wilbur Terry, amounted to \$200. Drawing for the country ham brought



\$43, and was won by Mrs. J. H. Gordon.

Mrs. Mildred Hancock of Hopkinsville, with the Kentucky Department of Parks, stated that she had distributed 2,000 complimentary Kentucky shopping bags and park literature by 1 p.m.

Mrs. T. D. Winstead, president of the Hardin County Historical Society, initiated the

plans and called together the original committee which organized this fund raising project. Others contributing to the success of this undertaking were auction chairman Rufus Brandenburg and Graham Egerton, Mrs. Charles Rodgers, chairman of the merchant's solicitation committee, Miss Bettie Gunning of Vine Grove Woman's Club, spearheaded the

drive in that area, and Mrs. Lee Crain, president of the Hardin County Homemakers, managed the luncheon facilities at a booth in the parking area.

The committee will meet Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the Brown-Pusey House to formulate plans and begin work on the restoration of the Lincoln Heritage House which they plan to make into a tourist attraction and museum for Hardin County.

Lincoln House Being Restored

By FAN GORDON
Enterprise Staff Writer

The jonquils were blooming in the bright sunshine, trees were budding, a song sparrow hurtled through the thicket, and a brown thrasher flashed by — probably the same as a hundred years ago.

Just seeing this, sets one to thinking, that everyone who helped and participated in the huge auction and flea market, held last year for the benefit of the restoration of the Lincoln Heritage House on old 31-W north of the city should feel proud.

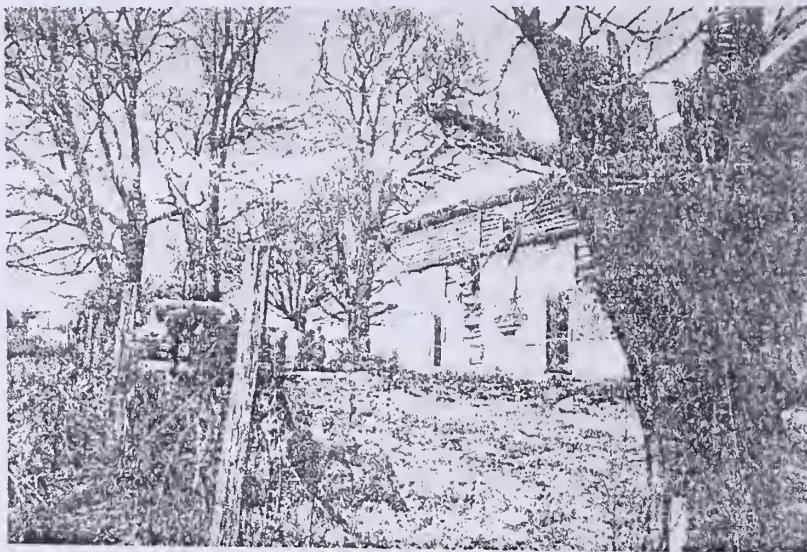
Extensive work is being done on the old two-story log house under the direction of the restoration chairman, Mrs. Wilbur Terry and building chairmen, Rufus Brandenburg and Graham Egerton. A temporary, but water-tight roof has replaced the old one, and in the process, it was discovered part of the original roof had been pegged on.

Most of the siding has been removed, exposing the huge logs of the original house. Those which had disintegrated will be replaced with sound old ones donated by the present Owensboro owners of a cabin which was on the old Reed farm on Valley Creek Road.

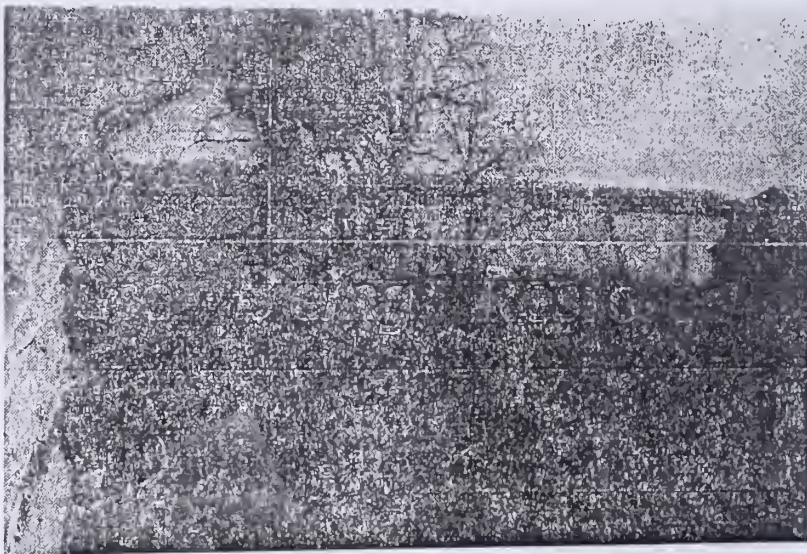
Virgil Cowley is foreman in charge of this work, which is being done with the advice of Sam Thomas, curator of Locust Grove. Mr. Thomas has made several inspection trips to the cabin and encouraged the committee to continue the work.

The caretaker cleaning up remarked, "This will be one of the most beautiful places in the state", and it is, indeed. One hundred years ago, there was no lake, today the grounds slope down to the lovely Freeman Lake, created in the Valley Creek Watershed project. A flock of ducks was viewed at a distance adding to the charm of the old home, said to be built by Abraham Lincoln's father, Thomas Lincoln, in the early 1800's.

Again the Hardin County Historical Society, the Lincoln Heritage House committee, civic clubs and many other interested individuals and groups will be called upon for another fund raising drive in May, and in the not to distant future we may boast of one of the finest restoration projects and tourist attractions with a Kentucky heritage in the state.



The Lincoln Heritage House north of Elizabethtown, built by Thomas Lincoln, Abraham's father, is being restored hopefully, to its original rustic charm. These pictures were taken last week, before work began.



PHOTOS BY LAUREL NEIDIG

The Lincoln Heritage House, which the Hardin County Historical Society and others hope becomes a tourist attraction, overlooks Freeman Lake. The House will be open for visitors this spring.

HARDIN THOMAS LOG HOUSE BEING RESTORED



NEWSphoto by J. C. Jennings

By Mrs. T. D. Winstead

With the restoration of the Hardin Thomas log house just north of Elizabethtown the Lincoln Heritage Foundation Committee has gone a long way toward making Elizabethtown a more attractive place to list of interesting historical sites.

Under the leadership of Rufus E. Denburt and Graham Eger, building chairmen and Mrs. Laura Terry, restoration chairman, much of the restoration has been started on the Hardin Thomas house. The carpenters work of which was executed by Thomas Lincoln, the father of our 16th president. Sam Thomas of Locust Grove serves as consultant to the committee. The restoration work is being done by Virgil Cowley and Carl Keplinger.

A temporary roof, the most pressing need, has been put on the entire house. All laths have been removed and most of the clapboards will be taken off and saved. All faulty log sleepers will be removed and replaced. Many of the logs have deteriorated and to replace them, the building chairmen have secured sound logs from two old log houses formerly located on the

Reed farm on Valley Creek Road.

The cost of the restoration thus far has made a large dent in the \$2600.00 the committee raised about a year ago with a Flea Market auction. Encouraged by the huge success of that undertaking, the committee plans a similar fund raising project. The date has been tentatively

set for May 18th and it is hoped that all civic groups in the county, individuals and everyone interested in preserving an important and unique historical site and promoting the best source of tourist attraction in Hardin County will join with the committee to make this project even more successful than the previous one.

The Lincoln (Heritage House) Debate

By FAN GORDON
Enterprise Staff Writer

In the tedious job of dismantling the Lincoln Heritage House, two separate buildings were discovered joined together.

The Thomas brothers, Sam, curator at Locust Grove, and James, working on the restoration of Shakertown, disagree as to which of the buildings is the older. The one building was originally one-story and a loft. The other building is a full two stories. The buildings were joined with siding, and it is believed there was a fireplace and chimney between the two, as there is a hearth box on the lower level.

The upstairs is partitioned where the log cabins are joined with a doorway between. Both buildings have stairways to the upper story, one in much better condition than the other.

Research is the answer to many of these construction questions. Consequently, the committee headed by Mrs. Wilbur Terry is anxious to hear from anyone acquainted with the structure of the building or any pictures or letters relating to what was known as the "old Thomas Place". It is believed and been sworn to in documented evidence that Thomas Lincoln, father of Abraham Lincoln, did much of the fine inside finishing in the original cabin. The original fireplace was moved many years ago and is a showpiece in the Lincoln

Room at the Fort Knox Officers Club.

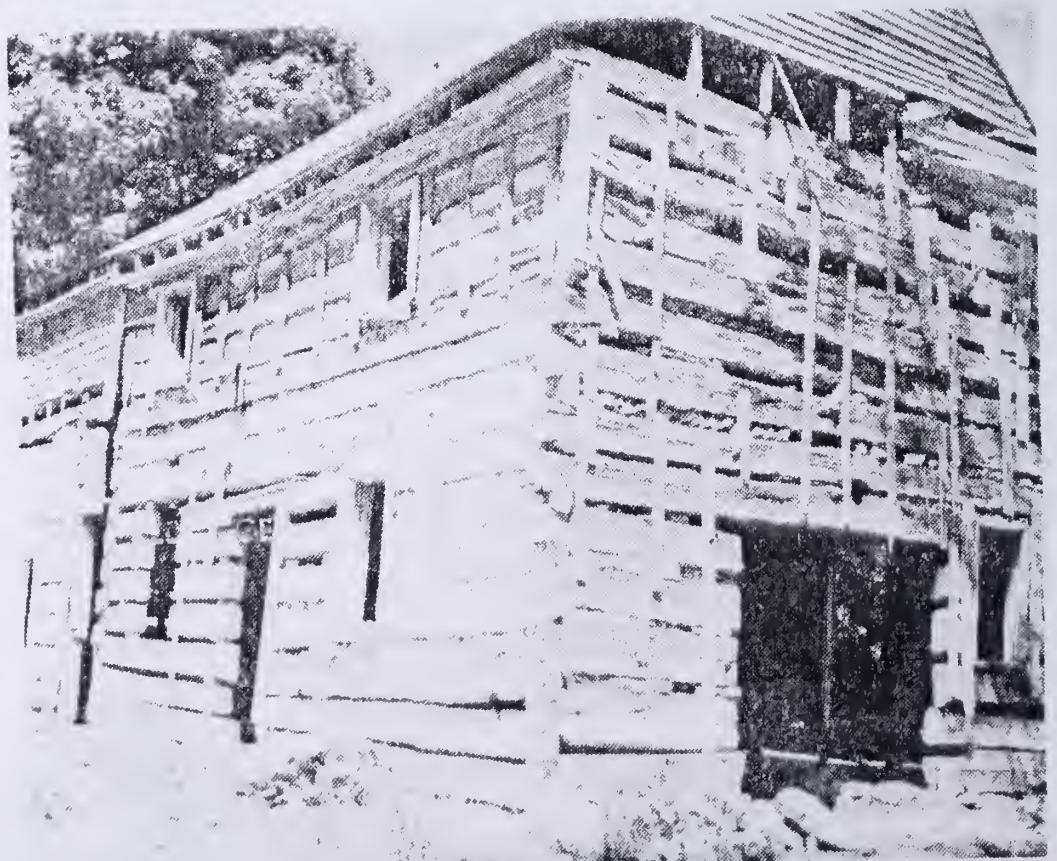
Through the cooperation of all Hardin County clubs and organizations and many interested individuals a successful auction and flea market was conducted last spring. Again the committee is sponsoring an auction to be held Saturday, June 8th, in the former Marion Garage on N. Main St.

It is hoped that again every civic minded citizen will contribute and work to make the Lincoln Heritage House a tourist promotion. Reconstruction of the house is scheduled to be

completed this summer.

Donations of salable articles, antiques, used furniture, clothing, electrical appliances, etc., may be placed on front lawns or porches Saturday, May 25th, or June 1st, and a truck will make the rounds through the city to pick up. There will be a responsible person at the garage on those dates to receive articles.

There will be a food booth conducted by one organization and donations of baked or canned goods will be appreciated. For further information or pick-up, call 765-4941 or 765-7007.



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July 25, 1969

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Director
The Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. McMurtry

Thank you for your letter dated July 23, 1969, relative to the Hardin Thomas house. About two years ago I made an extensive search through the deeds recorded in the Hardin County Court Clerk's Office with the hope of tracing the land where the log house is now located back to Hardin Thomas. However, I ran into several complications which prevented me from doing this. Although we firmly feel that this house is the one that was occupied by Hardin Thomas and partially constructed by Thomas Lincoln, we have not been able to prove it by court records. However, it is possible that this may still be done after more research.

We appreciate your continued interest in Hardin County and Lincoln's connections here.

Yours most sincerely



W. Burton Cowley

WBC:kjc
cc

209 Elizabeth St.
Elizabethtown, Ky.
42701
11 Aug. 1969

Dear Gerald:

Your article on the Hardin Thomas house is excellent, you have covered the subject thoroughly.

As far as I can learn Sam Thomas is a Ph. D., his brother, James, is not. You have them correctly placed as consultants. I believe everything that has been done to the house so far, was at Sam's suggestion. He thinks the place is so interesting he would "like to have a trailer and live right by it until it is properly restored". We can't afford him often as he charges \$7.50 per hour.

Burton Cowley did some research on the deeds but seems to have given up on the whole project and never attends a committee meeting. There are many others who have done more and I suggest that you include Mrs. T. D. Winstead, Mrs. Elizabeth Pate, Mrs. Henry Faurest and R. R. Thomas.

Two sentences I wrote you are THE TRUTH but probably should be deleted from your article as one of the questions we have to answer to get a loan or gift (!) is what plans we have for the future use and how we plan to maintain it so we shouldn't let it be known that we haven't any yet. I believe the sentence beginning "No plans" and the one "Then, too" should be omitted.

If it is possible I would like to have three or four extra copies of the LINCLON LORE in which this article comes out. One for the Historical Society, one to include with our other papers and one for our loan application.

I really enjoyed reading this and look forward to the LINCOLN LORE- which I always enjoy.

Sincerely,

Margaret S. Richerson

August 12, 1969

Mrs. Margarget S. Richerson
209 Elizabeth Street
Elizabethtown, Kentucky 42701

Dear Margaret:

Many thanks for sending back and reading my article on the Hardin Thomas house. Your notes and suggestions are well taken and I have incorporated them into the article. In other words I deleted the two sentences in the last paragraph and added the names of those people who have been most active in the restoration project.

My next problem is to secure good photographs of the house. I wrote to J. C. Jennings of the ELIZABETHTOWN NEWS for photographs but he has not answered my letter. Perhaps Graham Egerton can get a photographer to make some photographs for me.

I will be happy to send you extra copies of the LINCOLN LORE which will contain the article.

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGM/cvtrw



Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of The Lincoln National Life Foundation . . . Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor
Published each month by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 1580

Fort Wayne, Indiana

October, 1969

The Hardin Thomas House

“the joiner’s work of which was done by Thomas Lincoln”

Today, about one and one-half miles north of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, just off Highway 31 W, there stands a dilapidated double log house which was once the home of Hardin Thomas. This ancient house has a special significance, because Thomas Lincoln, the father of the Sixteenth President, helped in its construction. Perhaps he did not build both of the cabins (they may have been built at different times) or even take part in the heavy constructional work of either building, but certainly he contributed something toward making it the fine home it became during the pioneer period.

Samuel Haycraft, Jr., who wrote *A History of Elizabethtown, Kentucky And Its Surroundings* in 1869, made the following statement on page 123: “He (Hardin Thomas) lived in a house rather better than usual for that day, the carpenter’s work of which was executed by Thomas Lincoln, the father of the late President, and the most of that work is to be seen at this day, sound as a trout, although done upwards of sixty years ago.”

In writing of Jack Thomas, the son of Hardin Thomas, Haycraft in his history, on page 55, stated that “He was



Photograph by J. C. Jennings, Elizabethtown (Ky.) News

The dilapidated Hardin Thomas house as it stands today north of Elizabethtown, Kentucky on Highway 31 W.

born on the 7th day of February, 1790. His father resided in a house the joiner's work of which was done by Thomas Lincoln, father of the President."

The word "joiner" is today obsolete in reference to house construction; however, an unabridged dictionary gives the definition as "a special artisan who finishes the woodwork for houses." In 1821, Thomas Lincoln, while a resident of Indiana, was responsible for the pulpit, window casings, and other woodwork of the Little Pigeon Baptist Church, which would certainly cast him in the role of a "joiner."

As Jack Thomas was born in the Hardin Thomas house in 1790, this eliminates Thomas Lincoln as the builder of the original log cabin or double cabin. In 1790 Thomas Lincoln (if he was born in 1776) was 14 years old. If he was born in 1778, as Abraham Lincoln believed, he would have been 12 years old. This would have been much too young for such a task.

Samuel Haycraft, Jr. in 1869 was of the opinion that the house was "upwards of sixty years" old, which would place the construction date at about the time of the future Sixteenth President's birth. Other local historians have fixed the date of the construction of the house as early as 1805.

References by Haycraft to the Hardin Thomas house are numerous. In a letter to the editor of the *Louisville Democrat* dated at Elizabethtown on July 9, 1865, referring to the death of Jack Thomas he wrote: "I have just learned that my old friend and relation Jack Thomas, Esq. departed his life at his residence in Leitchfield, Grayson County, on the 5th day of July, 1865. Jack Thomas and myself commenced this world poor boys together in the early existence of the state. He was born on the 7th day of February, 1790 near this town, his father resided in a house the joiner's work of which was done by Thomas Lincoln, father of the president."

It is of interest to point out that Abraham Lincoln claimed that he was at least faintly familiar with the handwriting of Jack Thomas. In a letter to Haycraft from Springfield, Illinois, dated May 28, 1860 Lincoln wrote: "... I recognized your hand-writing, on opening your letter, before I saw the signature. My recollection is that Ben Helm was first clerk (Hardin County Court), that you succeeded him, that Jack Thomas and William Farleigh graduated in the same office, and that your handwritings were all very similar — Am I right?" (See *Lincoln Lore* No. 1456).

The earliest date that can be established that Thomas Lincoln was in Hardin County is July 13, 1796 when he was paid 39 shillings by Samuel Haycraft, Sr. for work on an Elizabethtown mill race and mill dam. Tom Lincoln was at that time either nineteen or twenty-one years of age.

The names of Hardin Thomas and Thomas Lincoln are linked together in Hardin County court documents. One such document is a petition (signed by 43 people) for a "road from the River Ohio to the Court house . . . that the road begin a quarter of a mile below the mouth of Flippin's Run . . ." The above document is to be found in a bundle marked "Road Petitions Before 1805" in the Hardin County Court records. As Thomas Lincoln's name, along with the name of Hardin Thomas, is signed to this petition, we can be reasonably assured that the two men were acquainted.

Haycraft provided a biographical sketch of Hardin Thomas in his history (pages 122-124): "Among the early settlers of this town was Hardin Thomas. He was the father of Jack Thomas, Isaac Thomas, Jesse Thomas, Miles H. Thomas, Alex Thomas, and of several daughters, one of whom married Col. Jacob B. Hayden, our present Senator.

"Hardin Thomas was a man of peace. He married Hetty Gerrard, a daughter of really the first Baptist preacher in Kentucky. He was a farmer, and his life was not such as to attract a great deal of attention from the outside world; but he was the 'noblest work of God — an honest man.' And not only an honest man, but was possessed of a degree of benevolence rarely met with in this world of dollars and cents. His house was a kind of cen-

tral point for the neighborhood; and as at that period, when churches were few, and religious services rather poorly attended to, a little visiting and good eating on the Sabbath day was not looked upon as at this day; on the contrary the folks worked all the week and considered that resting on the Sabbath consisted in visiting friends, having social chats, and a good share of table indulgences. So whether Hardin Thomas and Cousin Hetty preferred it or not, the Sabbath was not only a day of rest to them, but rather a day of labor. The neighbors and young folks poured in every Sabbath, or nearly so. I have often been one of them, and partook of the hospitalities of the united head of the family; and those hospitalities were not extended with a stinted or grudging hand, but flowed bountifully from their diligent hands and generous hearts.

"And these Sunday doings were not all. But if a peniless man or woman sick, afflicted or distressed, passed through our country, they invariably dropped in to Hardin Thomas and were there nursed, fed and lodged and kindly treated. And if you have been inclined to insult Hardin Thomas or his wife let one of these unfortunates ask them what was to pay for board, etc.

"Everybody loved Hardin Thomas and his wife. He was very popular, but never had any political aspirations or thirst for office. I once heard a man ask Hardin Thomas why he did not offer for the Legislature. His reply was that he 'would as soon be found with a sheep on his back' . . .

"Hardin Thomas was a man of portly form and a pleasant countenance — just such a one as was comfortable to look at, and was a complete index of the inner man; but many years since he and his good wife have finished their courses and gone to their reward. His mother was a Hardin, the daughter of John Hardin, who was a brother of the old original Mark Hardin, of George's Creek, Pennsylvania. His father was named Owen Thomas; he was the brother of Gen. John Thomas, who commanded the Kentucky troops under Gen. Jackson at the battle of New Orleans . . .

"One peculiarity more of Hardin Thomas I will name. He was so honest himself that he was unsuspicious of others. And although he lived upon a public road leading from Louisville to Nashville, he trusted all to luck; had no lock to his house, or desk, or smoke house, or corner crib. I heard him myself say that there was not a lock about his house. And singular as it may be, I never heard of his losing anything by theft . . ."

Haycraft stated that Hardin Thomas was "a man of peace." However, there is to be found in the Hardin County Court Order Book A (August term 1800 to June Term 1801) a list of twenty-five frontiersmen from Hardin County who fought with General George Rogers Clark, and Hardin Thomas was one of them. These men went through the hardships of war, ice, overflowing rivers, and hunger to make a vital contribution to our nation's independence and to the settlement of Kentucky. As Clark's men were never fully compensated by either Virginia or the United States, the twenty-five soldiers twenty-three years after the expedition against the Wabash Indians, as they called it in Kentucky, petitioned the Hardin County Court for reimbursement. They asked from 1 pound, 15 shillings and 2 pence to varying amounts up to 18 pounds, depending upon the services rendered. Hardin Thomas and the remaining twenty-four men were all able to produce satisfactory proof that they fought with General Clark.

As to Thomas Lincoln's building activities, there is documentary proof that he followed the carpenter's trade in Elizabethtown. This is revealed in the details of the Geoghegan-Lincoln suit. Lincoln not long after his marriage to Nancy Hanks (1806) made a contract to hew enough logs to erect a mill. Lincoln, historians like to believe, fulfilled his part of the contract but Geoghegan claimed the work was not done according to specifications. Lincoln brought suit against Geoghegan in a magistrate's court on March 25, 1807. Lincoln won the suit. The judgment was for four pounds and nine shillings and the cost of the trial amounted to four shillings and six pence plus the cost of the appeal.

Another entry in Haycraft's history (page 74) would indicate that the father of the President constructed the

house in which he lived in Elizabethtown: "After this time (turn of the century) similar buildings were erected by George Berry, Jacob Bruner, Samuel Patton, Mrs. Jane Ewin, Mrs. Boling, Mrs. Llewellyn, Thomas Lincoln (father of the President), James Crutcher, Asa Coombs, Thomas Davis, Henry Ewin, James Love and David Vance."

Because Thomas Lincoln was a skilled cabinetmaker or joiner, it has been asserted by some that he would not have built the Hardin Thomas house, except the finished woodwork. Perhaps he did both. His carpenter's work ranged all the way from Geoghegan's mill to the beautiful mantelpiece (from the Hardin Thomas house) now located in the Lincoln Room of the Armor Center Officer's Open Mess at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

The Hardin Thomas mantelpiece (probably made of pine) was secured in the fall of 1919 when Camp Knox was under construction. Major William Radcliffe, a construction quartermaster, lived with his family for a time in Elizabethtown in the home of Mrs. J. F. Albert, a great grand-daughter of Hardin Thomas. From Mrs. Albert, Major Radcliffe learned of the Hardin Thomas house and from Mr. B. F. Jenkins (at the time the owner) he secured for the United States Government the Thomas Lincoln mantelpiece, which he installed in a building then called "The Hostess House" at the army post. (See *Lincoln Lore* No. 1512)

Little public attention was paid to the log house after 1919 because it was in the hands of a private owner and was occupied by tenants. Long neglected, it fell into a bad state of repair. Sometime during its interesting history it had been covered with clapboard, but time and the elements allowed the massive logs to show through in several places where the modern covering had broken away. Today most of the siding has been ripped off, exposing the huge logs of the original house. Those logs which have disintegrated are to be replaced with sound ones taken from another cabin on the old Reed farm on the Valley Creek road.

A temporary roof has been built over the entire structure. In the laying of the new roof, it was discovered that part of the old wooden shingles had been secured with pegs. In addition, to the work mentioned, all of the laths on the interior, which are not a part of the original structure, have been removed.

This partial restoration has come about because the land on which the Hardin Thomas house stands has become a part of the Valley Creek watershed which provides the City of Elizabethtown with water storage, flood control and recreation facilities.

Meanwhile, considerable research has been underway. Efforts to trace the original deeds back to Hardin Thomas have been undertaken. Unfortunately, several complications have prevented this approach from being successful; however, it is possible that this may still be done after more research. Then there is the question as to which is the original structure of the double house, and of course the interior woodwork has been carefully studied (it is not of an exceptional quality except for the Fort Knox mantelpiece) because it is undoubtedly the handiwork of Thomas Lincoln.

The log building has also been carefully examined by experts who have worked on other restoration projects; namely, the Thomas brothers (no relation). Dr. Samuel W. Thomas is the resident curator of "Locust Grove" near Louisville, Kentucky, (the restored home of George Rogers Clark) and his brother James is presently working on the restoration of Shakertown. They disagree as to which of the buildings of the double house is the older.

Apparently, one building, likely the first, was originally one-story with a loft. The other building is a full two-story structure. The buildings were joined with siding, and it is believed there was a fireplace and chimney between the two as there is a hearth box on the lower level. The upstairs is partitioned and the log buildings are joined with a doorway between. Both buildings have stairways to the upper floors, one of which is in a much better condition than the other.

Many Elizabethtown people have been engaged in the restoration of this building (now known as the Lincoln Heritage House), and those taking a leading role have been Graham Egerton, Mrs. Wilbur Terry, Rufus Brandenburg, W. Burton Cowley, Mrs. T. D. Winstead, Mrs. Elizabeth Pate, Mrs. Henry Faurest, R. R. Thomas, and Mrs. M. S. Richerson. Virgil Cowley has served as the foreman of the project, working under the direction and with the advice of Dr. Sam Thomas, and assisted by Carl Keplinger.

In addition to their interest in the town's early history, the local people are further motivated by the beauty of the rustic home site. Today the ground slopes down from the Thomas house to Freeman's Lake, which has been created by the Valley Creek Watershed project. Occasionally, at the right season of the year, a flock of wild ducks can be seen adding charm to an ancient setting.

There is also an old family cemetery nearby to enhance the pioneer environment. Many of the original tombstones have crumbled away. About five stones bear legible inscriptions indicating burials of Thomases and Millers in the 1830s and 1840s. Perhaps extensive research will eventually be undertaken to identify these dead and to restore the old graveyard to its former condition. It is of particular interest to mention that Confederate Ben Hardin Helm, the brother-in-law of Abraham Lincoln, lies buried only a short distance from the Thomas house and the pioneer cemetery.

If the double sections of the house were constructed at different times, perhaps that would vindicate Haycraft's claim that Thomas Lincoln did the "carpenter's work" and at the same time allow descendants of Hardin Thomas to maintain that Jack Thomas was born in the cabin home in 1790.

One point on which Elizabethtown citizens are certain is that Thomas Lincoln did the interior "joiner's work" for Hardin Thomas.

What a fortunate and remarkable thing it is that a house which Thomas Lincoln helped to build is still standing, that it is in the process of restoration, that it is well above the flood area of Freeman's Lake, that it is located on public land, that it is near an important highway and that it is located in the Lincoln Country of Kentucky.

On the other hand, all is not well with this restoration project. The log house is now just a shell and all the interior woodwork, except for the two stairways, is gone. No additional money in the foreseeable future is available for further restoration. The fate of this historic house hangs in the balance. Will the people of Elizabethtown and Hardin County take the necessary steps to preserve it?



Photograph Courtesy of Mrs. M. S. Richerson

View of the Hardin Thomas house before any restoration work had begun.

History of the Tinsley Building

(Continued from the September issue)

October 17, 1849

The Post Office was removed from building to John William's new building on 4th Street nearly opposite the store of Hickox Brothers. Two postmasters served in the building. G. W. Spottswood served as postmaster from August 1841 to November 1844, and Jonathan R. Diller served from 1844 to 1849.

November 22, 1850

William Peacocke's grocery moved into old Post Office room in building.

June 7, 1850

S. M. Tinsley sold building to Philip C. Johnson.

April 28, 1851

E. D. Taylor purchased stock of S. M. Tinsley. This was the store Tinsley had in west half of building. Taylor was partner of Hurst & Taylor in corner room.

May 16, 1851

William Peacocke offered for rent the old post office room and the second and third story of the west half of the building which was lately occupied by S. M. Tinsley.

June 19, 1851

An advertisement in the *Register* indicated that Peacocke moved from the Tinsley Building.

August 9, 1851

Tinsley offered for rent the store room vacated by Peacocke.

February 24, 1852

Journal carried advertisement that new firm of Pheasant & Pritchard had rented room vacated by Peacocke.

October 1, 1852

Lincoln & Herndon office over McGraw & Buchanan store west side of square vacated by W. I. Ferguson, attorney. *Daily Register* reported that Ferguson left for permanent residence in Texas September 25, 1852. (*Register*, September 27, 1852) Location of Lincoln & Herndon law office between August 23, 1849 when still in the Tinsley Building and this location is not definitely known.

April 1, 1853

The *Register* in statements dated April 1 and 19, announced the formation of a new mercantile firm, Yates, Smith & Co. at the old stand of Pheasant & Pritchard in the Tinsley Building. C. M. Smith was Lincoln's brother-in-law.

April 7, 1853

American Express Co. with S. M. Tinsley as agent was located over Hurst & Taylor (corner store) but whether second or third floor is not known.

August 17, 1855

A. C. Dickens, U.S. Marshal, announced the renting of the second floor of Logan Building (northeast corner of the square) thus moving the federal courts out of the Tinsley Building.

May 22, 1854

Philip A. Johnson *et al* sold building to James A. Barrett.

May 28, 1856

Barrett sold east half of building to Charles W. Matheny. The complete text of the deed recorded that Yates & Smith occupied the building next door west and back of building which had been the Post Office until October, 1849.

February, 1858

Hurst & Matheny formed partnership. Matheny owned building where Hurst had store for many years. The firm became Matheny & Company.

1866

J. H. Matheny & Whithurst, lawyers, had office in building. Structure was called Matheny Building.

1868

John Bressmer took over store of Matheny & Co.

1868-1875

Matheny & McGuire, lawyers, had office in building.

1871

C. M. Smith razed the west half of the Tinsley Building and also the next two store buildings (Butler Brothers) and built "Smith's Block." The room nearest the corner was occupied by Roberts & Co. The next area by T. S. Little and the third room by C. M. Smith & Co. The original old post office room in the Tinsley building which fronted on Sixth Street was connected in the back of Smith's new store. (See *Journal* January 1, 1873, February 2, 1873 and January 1, 1875)

November 13, 1872

C. M. Smith & Co. moved into their new building.

1882

Frank Burnett, lawyer, had office in building.

1882-1914

The Farmers National Bank occupied first floor. The bank was organized in the office of Isaac Keys on May 2, 1882 (See *Journal*, May 3, 1882)

1884 Directory

Offices over the Farmers National Bank were rented to W. H. Colley, R. M. S. Crook, C. P. Kane (Rooms 3 & 4) and S. D. Scholes.

1882-1886

Bluford Wilson & Frank H. Jones, attorneys, had office in building.

1894

R. H. McAnulty, lawyer, had office in building.

1914

After the Farmers National Bank moved out of the building in 1914, its space was rented for mercantile businesses. For many years and until restoration there was a shoe store. The second floor space seems to have always been rented for law offices. However, only one law office was left when restoration started; the rest were vacant. The third floor was occupied for the last 72 years by Murray S. Hanes and his father, S. J. Hanes, who were architects.

February 16, 1967

The building was purchased and restored by Mr. and Mrs. James E. Myers, Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Axtoby and Mrs. H. B. Bartholf.

1968

The restored Tinsley Building was opened in the fall to the public. There was no formal opening. The only literature available concerning the restored structure refers to it as The Lincoln-Herndon Building.

CORRECTION

The statement is made in the September, 1969 issue on page 2, first column, line three, that "Herndon had been a law student in the Logan & Herndon office." This law firm should have been Logan & Lincoln.

Unique Honor

Abraham Lincoln was "justifiably lauded at a Democratic political function (February 12, 1968) in Spokane . . . and then awarded an honorary membership in the Democratic party."

The Union ladies of the interior of Kentucky are having Bell and Everett printed on their bonnet strings. *Per contra* the republican ladies West are having pictures of Lincoln on their bonnet strings, as an offset to the Kentucky ladies.

Boston Advertiser (August 17, 1860)

\$30,000 Sought

Drive Renewed to Restore Lincoln Heritage House

By GEORGE WRIGHT

Elizabethtown and Hardin County, woefully short on historical tourist attractions, can offer visitors something special in a year or two if a fund drive planned by Lincoln Heritage House, Inc. proves successful.

The Lincoln Heritage group, headed by Mrs. Reba Mae Terry, took the first steps last week to raise \$30,000 in local contributions in a renewal effort to help restore a dilapidated double log house near the shore of Freeman Lake in which Abraham Lincoln's father is said to have done the "joiner's work."

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development recently approved a grant of \$26,600 for restoration of the house, but before the federal money is turned loose for the project it must be matched locally. The offer is good for one year.

Lincoln Heritage House, Inc., formed in 1967 to restore the log structure and make it a part of the park being developed around Freeman Lake, applied for the grant through the City of Elizabethtown.

At a meeting Saturday morning at the court house, the Lincoln group began organizing for the fund-raising campaign,

to be kicked off soon. County Judge R. R. Thomas and Rufus Brandenburg agreed to be responsible for business solicitations, and Bill Swope is heading the drive for donations from industries. Mrs. T. D. Winstead is drive chairman for women's organizations. The complete organization for the campaign will be announced soon.

Elizabethtown Mayor James R. Pritchard pledged the city's support to the project Saturday morning, but no city money is available for the campaign. However, the city is contributing much to development of the Freeman Creek recreation area. This is part of the Valley Creek Watershed project which is being financed jointly by the city and the U. S. Soil Conservation Service.

If the fund campaign is successful, the painstaking task of restoring the structures built in Elizabethtown's pioneer days presumably will begin next year.

"This ancient house has a special significance, because Thomas Lincoln, the father of the Sixteenth President, helped in its construction," stated Lincoln expert Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry in a Lincoln Lore article last fall. "Perhaps he did not build both of the cabins

(they may have been built at different times) or even take part in the heavy constructional work of either building," the article continued, "but certainly he contributed something toward making it the fine home it became during the pioneer period."

The house in those days was the home of Hardin Thomas. There were two log cabins later joined with siding.

Dr. McMurtry quoted from Samuel Haycraft, Jr.'s "A History of Elizabethtown and Its Surroundings", written in 1869: "He (Hardin Thomas) lived in a house rather better than usual for that day, the carpenter's work of which was executed by Thomas Lincoln, the father of the late President, and the most of that work is to be seen at this day, sound as a trout, although done upwards of sixty years ago."

In writing of Jack Thomas, son of Hardin Thomas, Haycraft in his history stated that "He was born on the 7th day of February, 1790. His father resided in a house the joiner's work of which was done by Thomas Lincoln, father of the President."

Dr. McMurtry explains that the word joiner is obsolete today in reference to house con-

struction. However, he said an unabridged dictionary gives the definition as a "special artisan who finishes the woodwork for houses."

Dr. McMurtry says that in 1821, "Thomas Lincoln, while a resident of Indiana, was responsible for the pulpit, window casings, and other woodwork of the Little Pigeon Baptist Church, which would certainly cast him in the role of a 'joiner.'"

The house here was neglected for many years and fell into a bad state of repair.

Restoration was started about three years ago after the city acquired the land off North Dixie for Freeman Lake and Lincoln Heritage House, Inc. was organized. However, available money was soon exhausted, and the log house is now just a shell.

Several local people had visions of an amphitheatre being built, with the lake as a backdrop, in connection with the Lincoln Heritage House and a play about Abraham Lincoln presented during the summer months.

Perhaps it will all come about, provided the people of Elizabethtown and Hardin County are interested enough to open their pocketbooks.



ENTERPRISE STAFF PHOTO

This a tourist attraction? It doesn't look like much now, but if the Lincoln Heritage House group can raise enough money locally the house, built probably in the early 1800's with Thomas

Lincoln doing the "joiner's work," will be restored. The double log house, which has been covered with a temporary metal roof, is located near Freeman Lake off North Dixie.

HARDIN COUNTY ENTERPRISE, ELIZABETHTOWN, KENTUCKY

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1970



Artist's View of Lincoln Heritage House

According to plans being prepared by architects R. L. Meek and K. D. Mock, this is what the Lincoln Heritage House will look like after restoration on Freeman Lake. Lincoln Heritage House, Inc. is spearheading the restoration project. Historians say Thomas Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's father, did the joiner's work in the log house which has stood in disrepair for years.

Restoration Project

Work Has Begun on Restoring Heritage House

After more than five years of planning and fund-raising, work has begun on restoration of the Lincoln Heritage House on the shore of Freeman Lake.

Local contractor Walter Compton started the project the first of this month. The larger of the two log structures comprising

the house is being dismantled and the logs run through a preserving process. A concrete foundation will be poured. It is hoped the smaller building will not have to be dismantled.

Mrs. Reba Mae Terry, chairman of Lincoln Heritage House, Inc., the group which has spearheaded the drive to establish

the tourist attraction in Elizabethtown, said the target date for completing restoration is the fall of 1972.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is matching local funds on a 50-50 basis to pay for restoration of the building in which Abraham Lincoln's father,

Thomas Lincoln, is said to have done the joiner's work in the early 1800's. Mrs. Terry said her group hopes to hold the total cost to \$35,000. The federal government will provide as much as \$26,000 for the project.

Several thousand dollars have already been pledged and raised locally, but more is needed. The Lincoln Heritage group is planning at least two fund-raising projects next year.

Rufus Brandenburg is building chairman, and R. L. Meek

is the architect.

The idea of restoring the dilapidated double log house and making it a tourist attraction came from the Hardin County Historical Society some five years ago.

Lincoln Heritage House, Inc., formed in 1967 to restore the log structure and make it a part of the Freeman Lake park, applied for a federal grant through the City of Elizabethtown. With the aid of the Lincoln Trail Economic Development District, the grant was obtained last year.

"This ancient house has a special significance, because

Thomas Lincoln, the father of the Sixteenth President, helped in its construction," stated Abraham Lincoln expert Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry in a Lincoln Lore article in the fall of 1969. "Perhaps he did not build both of the cabins (they may have been built at different times) or even take part in the heavy constructional work of either building" the article continued, "but certainly he contributed something toward making it the fine home it became during the pioneer period."

The house in those days was the home of Hardin Thomas.



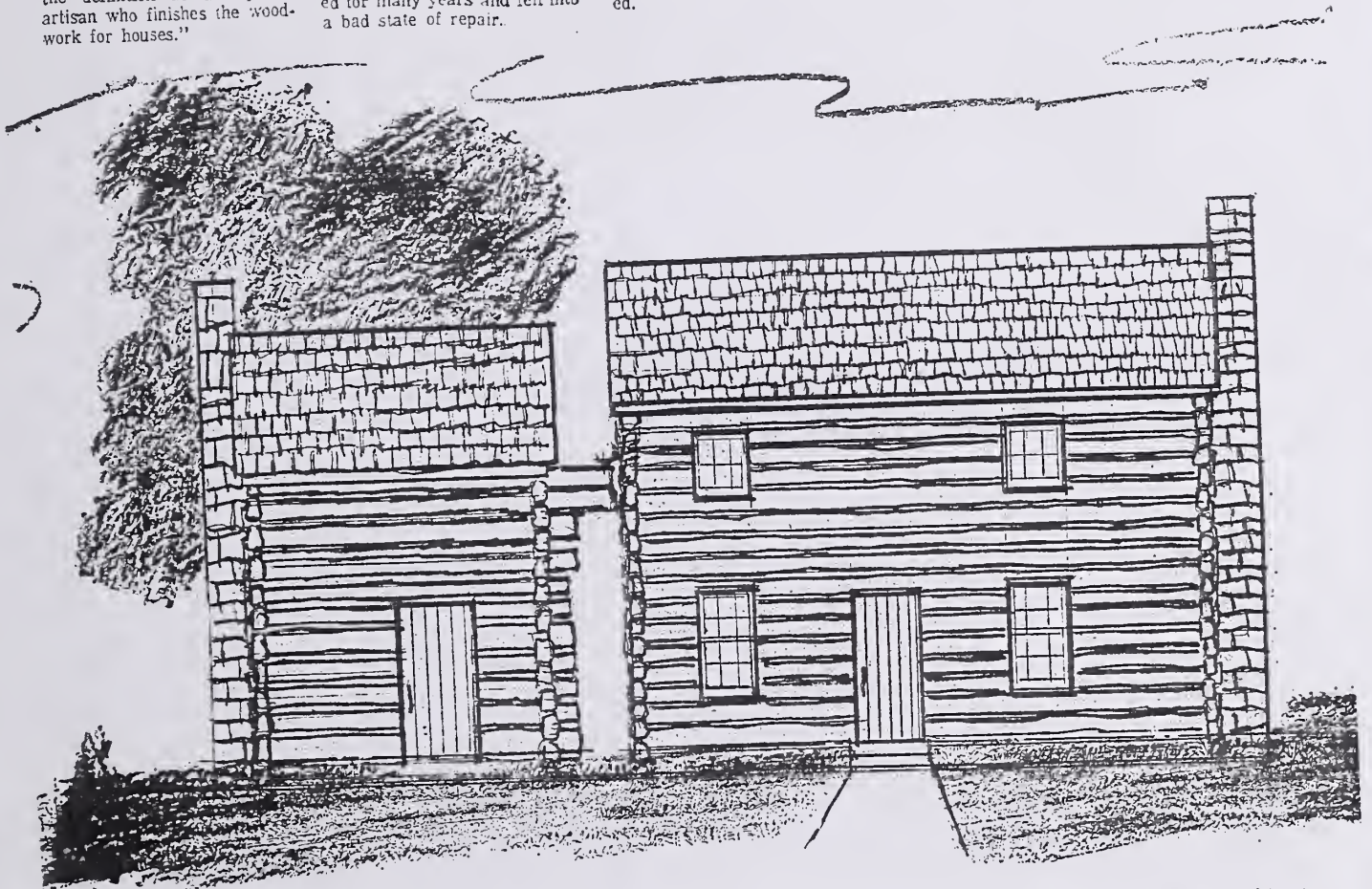
ENTERPRISE STAFF PHOTO

Ghosts of Tom Lincoln arise as Bob Terry works on a log at the Lincoln Heritage House on Freeman Lake. The house is currently undergoing complete restoration. The logs are being taken down one-by-one and labeled for eventual shipment to Louisville for treatment. After they are sent back, they will be reconstructed.

Dr. McMurtry explains that the word joiner is obsolete today in reference to house construction. However, he said an unabridged dictionary gives the definition as a "special artisan who finishes the woodwork for houses."

The house here was neglected for many years and fell into a bad state of repair.

Restoration was started about four years ago after the city acquired the land off North Dixie for Freeman Lake and Lincoln Heritage House, Inc. was organized. However, available money was soon exhausted.



Artist's view of the Lincoln Heritage House which is being restored as a tourist attraction on Freeman Lake. Work started the first of November. The main house is being dismantled

and the logs subjected to a preserving process. Architect was R. L. Meek.

Hardin Thomas House

Rineyville, Ky.

Sept. 9, 1972

Hardin Co. Ky

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. McMurtry:

I received the two photo copies of Hardin Thomas' signature which we are so glad to receive. Items such as these signatures, after we have them properly framed, will add much to the interior of the Lincoln Heritage House we think. Thank you so very much for sending them.

Believe I told you Mr. Adin Baber has permitted the Illinois Historical Society to make a copy of the Nancy Hanks composite picture which we plan to place beside the "so called" photo of Thomas Lincoln (had it copied some time ago from the Stefan Lorant book in Hodgenville library) in the cabin. Since we will use the prepared caption on the Nancy Hanks photo feel we should also place a caption on the Thomas Lincoln photo with brief explanation on it as set out in the brochure you sent me, and I also thank you very much for the brochure. Was very glad to get it as it was published before I started receiving "Lincoln Lore".

Have you seen any of the paintings of Dr. Robert T. Clagett, one of our local dentists who is from Leitchfield? He is one of our better local artists and has done many local historical homes, churches, etc., many of which have since been torn down. He painted the Lincoln Heritage House as he imagined it to be before the clapboards were put on, some time ago. Recently he has painted his idea of the interior as it was originally, after going out to Ft. Knox to see the Thomas Lincoln mantel, and I think both of the paintings are very good. They with other of the historical paintings are on display at the Helmwood Branch of the First Hardin National Bank and if they are shown in local paper will send you a copy. We hope he will give the paintings to be placed in the L.H.H. He is, at present, painting the old home of Prof. Rirtle at Howe Valley which the family maintains Thomas Lincoln at

helped build....this is on commission from a member
of the family now living in Tyler, Texas.

Thank you again for your interest in our project
which is nearing completion....Dr. Tapp, of the State
Historical Society has promised to spotlight the
house with story in an issue of the Kentucky Historical
Register when house is finished.

Sincerely,

Mrs. T.D. Winstead

Mrs. Thos.D.Winstead

New Tourist Attraction

Lincoln Heritage House to Open in the Spring

Elizabethtown's newest tourist attraction, the Lincoln Heritage House on the shore of Freeman Lake, will open to the public this spring.

With restoration of the double log house, where Abraham Lincoln's father, Thomas Lincoln, is said to have done the joiner's work in the early 1800s, going into its final stages, Mayor James R. Pritchard has appointed these persons to a board of trustees to oversee the Lincoln Heritage House:

Mrs. Margaret Richerson, Mrs. T. D. Winstead, Mrs. L. A. Faurest, Mrs. Henry Faurest, Mrs. Lee Crain, Mrs. Wil-



ENTERPRISE STAFF PHOTO

Restoration of the Lincoln Heritage House, on the shore of Freeman Lake, is in its final stages. The house, in which Abraham Lincoln's father, Thomas Lincoln, is said to have done the joiners' work in the early 1800s, will be opened to the public this spring.

bur Terry, Miss Louise Patterson, Miss Lottie Miller.

Rufus Brandenburg, County Judge R. R. Thomas, Ed Shaheen, Mrs. Bill Schmidt, Mrs. Byron Pirtle, Ed Sanders, Mrs. E. G. Sprague, Mrs. Seymour Goodman and Robert Clagett.

Ex-officio members are Mayor Pritchard, Superintendent of Parks George Searles and Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Pate, president of the Hardin County Historical Society.

Some six years ago the Hardin County Historical Society had a vision of restoring the last Lincoln link left in Hardin County. It was a cabin built around 1789, the home of Hardin Thomas and his wife, Mehetabel Gerrard Thomas, pioneer settlers in Hardin County. Around 1805 due to an increasing family, another log unit was added constituting a log house.

It was at this time Thomas Lincoln, who was a well-known cabinet maker and car-

penter in the area, did the joiner's work as well as other work on the log house. The authenticity of the work done by Thomas Lincoln has been verified by Dr. Gerald McMurtty, nationally known Lincoln scholar.

The house is located in Freeman Lake Park on property which had been acquired by the City of Elizabethtown for the Valley Creek Watershed Project. The city's governing powers being aware of the interest of the Hardin County Historical Society and the awakening of an interest in historic preservation, gave the Historical Society permission to restore the unit.

A non-profit corporation was formed which with a committee of interested citizens from both the city and county began a trying campaign to raise funds to restore the house. The house was given the name Lincoln Heritage House.

Many different projects were launched. Numerous people, realizing the value of restoration from the standpoint of ed-

ucation, as an asset to business and as a dedication to the memory of the Lincoln family in Hardin County, came to the aid of this committee. There were times when the committee felt it was sponsoring a lost cause.

Finally, with the assistance of the Lincoln Trail Regional Development Office, the governing power of Elizabethtown and Hardin County, Congressman William H. Natcher, Senator John Sherman Cooper, the Elizabethtown - Hardin County Chamber of Commerce and the Kentucky Heritage Commission, matching federal funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development were obtained.

In the spring of 1972, under the leadership of building chairman Rufus Brandenburg, architect R. L. Meek and construction carpenter Walter Compton, the work was begun.

More money is needed, and the board of trustees plans to inform the public of ways it can help in the final construction stages.

Work Is Delayed

Lincoln Heritage House Likely to Open in May

Although April had been the target month, it will likely be sometime in May before the Lincoln Heritage House is open to the public. Work on remodeling Elizabethtown's newest tourist attraction has been under way for the past year.

Located at Freeman Lake Park, the house is completely remodeled on the outside. However, according to Mrs. Wilbur Terry, a member of the Heritage House board of trustees, some work remains to be done on landscaping the grounds and on the interior of the house.

Mrs. Terry attributed cold weather and lack of furnishings as major holdups in opening the home to the public. "It has just been so cold and there is no heat in the house," she explained. "There are several large fireplaces but they are just not enough to heat a house of that size."

She said that the group is now tentatively aiming at May 1 as the date of official opening.

While relying primarily on donations of furniture, Mrs. Terry also reported that the group is running short of funds. "We will need additional funds and I'm sure we'll have to hold some money-making projects, but we don't have any definite plans worked out as yet," she said. "Several pieces have already been donated including chairs, desks and tables. The group is particularly searching for a showcase for display and furniture that de-

notes the period, the late 1700's and early 1800's.

According to Mrs. Terry, city employees have been working on the landscaping, but she said that weather was the major holdup here as well. "The landscaping is almost finished, but it's just been too wet lately to get additional sidewalks and everything else done," she said.

Along with regular furnishings, the interior of the house will feature a gift shop. Mrs. Terry said that Louise Patterson is in charge of the gift shop and that she is currently soliciting items made in Hardin County, in particular, as well as state crafts and other items normally found in a gift shop.

For the first year, the shop will be staffed by volunteer workers. "Miss Patterson is going before various organizations right now in an effort to recruit workers," explained Mrs. Terry. "She is trying to work out some sort of plan by which each organization is responsible for the shop for a week or something of this nature. After the first year, we'll have to see how things are going before we hire someone to run the shop."

The house is a double log cabin where Abraham Lincoln's father, Thomas Lincoln, is said to have done the joiner's work in the early 1800's. It is located in Freeman Lake Park on property which was acquired by the City of Elizabethtown for the Valley Creek Watershed Proj-

ect.

Originally built around 1789, the house was the home of Hardin Thomas and his family. When the Thomases decided to build an addition to the structure, Thomas Lincoln did the joiner's work as well as other work on this log house. The authenticity of the work done by Thomas Lincoln has been verified by Dr. Gerald McMurty, nationally known Lincoln scholar.



ENTERPRISE STAFF PHOTO

With the exterior of the Lincoln Heritage House remodeled, work remains to be done on the interior and on landscaping the grounds. City workmen have been working on the landscaping and have completed two stone sidewalks and a rail fence partially surrounding the house. Additional sidewalks and steps at the house's several entrances are needed. Furniture donations are also being sought. Freeman Lake is in the background.

Marker Dedicated At Heritage House

Years of planning proved fruitful for the Hardin County Historical Society as a state highway historical marker, noting Thomas Lincoln's carpentry work on the Lincoln Heritage House, was erected and formally dedicated Friday.

Mrs. T. D. Winstead, secretary-treasurer of the Lincoln Heritage House Board of Trustees, said the group has worked since 1966 to restore the house on the banks of Freeman Reservoir.

"In 1966 when the city bought the land, which included the Heritage House, for construction of Freeman Reservoir, local historians asked the city council not to allow the house to be razed," said Mrs. Winstead.

The council agreed, on the condition that the historical society restore the house. Through years of planning and with matching funds from Housing and Urban Development, the restoration is almost complete.

"What we're trying to do now is to furnish the inside with furniture and items of

the period from 1790 to 1820," Mrs. Winstead noted. She added that several people have already donated originals such as a rope bed, cooking utensils, a Windsor rocker and other chairs.

When the furnishing is completed, the house will be open to the public. Mrs. Winstead said the society hopes to open it sometime in June.

"We've even obtained a copy of Thomas Lincoln's and Nancy Hanks marriage bond and a copy of a list of marriages performed by Rev. Jessie Head, a Methodist minister in Washington County who married Thomas and Nancy Hanks and put their names on the list," said Mrs. Winstead.

She said the house was originally two cabins, later put under one roof. "The small one-room cabin was originally the home of Hardin Thomas and his wife and was built about 1789. But, by 1800 they had nine children and needed more room."

"So they built a four-room adjoining cabin about 1805. It was on this cabin that Thomas



ENTERPRISE STAFF PHOTO

MEMBERS AND GUESTS of the Hardin County Historical Society were present Friday at the Lincoln Heritage House on the banks of Freeman Reservoir to witness the dedication of a state highway historical marker that commemorates the work of President Abraham Lincoln's father, Thomas Lincoln, in helping build the house. The 11 lines of letters on the marker were suggested by a local committee, headed by Sam Watkins, and were screened by the Kentucky Historical Marker Committee in Frankfort before approval.

Lincoln did carpentry work," said Mrs. Winstead.

Lincoln, father of Abraham Lincoln, apparently built the stairway in the house, put in the windows, did cabinet and

finishing work and also constructed a mantle.

"The Army and Fort Knox Officers Club now owns the mantle, but Dr. David Lewis had an exact replica built to

go in the Heritage House," Mrs. Winstead remarked.

Although some rotten logs were replaced in the refurbishing, most of the construction material in the house is original.

McMURTRY TO SPEAK AT LANDMARK DEDICATION

Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry, recently retired Director of the Lincoln National Life Library and Museum, has been invited to deliver the dedicatory address at The Lincoln Heritage House, located near Elizabethtown, Kentucky, on Sunday afternoon, June 24. The house, restored through a joint effort of the federal and local governments, will be a National Historic Landmark. It was the home of Thomas Hardin, and Thomas Lincoln did much of the work on the double log cabin.

Still another important move to protect Louisville's endangered heritage is afoot. Spearheaded by Sidney Baer, chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Board of Aldermen on Historical Protection and Preservation, an ordinance has been written to create an 11-member historic landmark and preservation commission to review and at least delay demolition of historically significant buildings. If passed, the ordinance would provide for the first time a measure of protection to Louisville's remaining landmarks. It is a small step, but a vital one, in the right direction.

Hardin County, site of several Lincoln landmarks, has uncovered yet another: The newly-named Lincoln Heritage House located just north of Elizabethtown at Freeman Lake Park. Thomas Lincoln, father of the president, helped in the construction of this pioneer hewn-timber house, originally built for Hardin Thomas. The structure consists of two separate cabins about 2 feet apart — the smaller dating back to roughly 1789 and the larger to about 1805. At some later period the log home was covered with white clapboard and its origins lost sight of. Then in the late 1960s the property was acquired by the city of Elizabethtown for the Valley Creek Watershed Project, which provides the city with water storage, flood control, and recreation facilities. The clapboards were removed from the old house revealing the long forgotten cabins. The re-discovery generated considerable interest, and the Hardin County Historical Society began a fund-raising campaign to finance restoration. Finally a Federal grant was secured enabling the project to be completed. Lincoln Heritage House will be open officially to the public this spring, and will feature furnishings and landscaping of the pioneer period.

The George Rogers Clark Trail Foundation has been organized by civic leaders and historically-minded individuals from Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, and Illinois to establish a 1550-mile highway trail marking the Revolutionary War exploits of George Rogers Clark. The foundation was chartered December, 1972 in Indiana and now has offices in Louisville's Commonwealth Building. The proposed trail would be similar to the Lincoln Heritage Trail that follows the path of Lincoln's life through Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois. Special highway markers will identify the route, which according to a preliminary report would follow the Ohio River from Pennsylvania through Louisville to Fort Massac in Southern Illinois, then across to Kaskaskia with an off-shoot to Cahokia. From Kaskaskia the trail would proceed to Vincennes and then back to Louisville, and from Louisville on through Bardstow, Harrodsburg, Stanford, and finally Cumberland Gap.

Text of Heritage House Dedicatory Address

Following is the text of address given by Dr. R. Gerald McMurry Sunday afternoon, June 24, at dedication of the Lincoln Heritage House, located in Freeman Lake Park. Dr. McMurry, a native of Elizabethtown, is one of the world's foremost Lincoln scholars. He is director emeritus of the Lincoln National Life Foundation Library and

Museum, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

His address:

Elizabethtown is very rich in history and tradition, however, we have preserved over the years FEW tangible historical sites to tie us to our glorious past.

For example:

The exact sites of Elizabethtown's three original towns formed in a triangle, equidistant a mile apart, occupied by the Helms, Hynes and Haycrafts, have been obliterated.

Early churches, taverns, public buildings and residences have long ago been razed.

We do not know the site of the Thomas Lincoln cabin in Elizabethtown where Abraham Lincoln's sister was born on February 10, 1807.

Not a trace of Samuel Haycraft, Senior's mill, where Thomas Lincoln, the father of the 16th President, worked as a laborer as early as July, 1796, can be found today.

And even Race Street has been re-named Central Avenue.

Not a vestige of Sarah Bush Johnston's cabin has been preserved. She became Abe Lincoln's stepmother, when Thomas Lincoln married her in Elizabethtown on December 2, 1819.

We do not even know the location of James Buchanan's residence, when the future 15th President of the United States practiced law before the local bar in 1813.

I could go on and on with an account of Elizabethtown's lost history.

Allow me to name some of Elizabethtown's contacts with the Lincolns.

It is a singular fact that Abraham Lincoln's marriage to Mary Todd would indirectly connect him with three prominent Elizabethtown characters, two of whom were connected with the town's early history, and possibly one an acquaintance of his father, and the other to be his friend, a leader in a cause in which he had to wage a determined fight to subdue.

I have reference to:

The Todd-Helm connection.
The Helm-Edwards connection.

The Green-Edwards connection.

Abraham Lincoln and Ben Hardin Helm, a native of Elizabethtown, married half sisters.

Today his remains are interred in the Helm family cemetery, just a short distance from here.

Major Benjamin Helm, an Elizabethtown resident, married the daughter of Hon. Benjamin Edwards. His wife, Mary Edwards, was a sister of Governor Ninian Edwards, the first territorial governor of Illinois.

The son of Governor Edwards, Ninian Wirt Edwards, married Elizabeth Todd, a full sister of Mary Todd.

And General Duff Green, an early Elizabethtown merchant and school teacher, married Lucretia Edwards, a sister of Governor Edwards, and of course it was her nephew that married Elizabeth Todd.

There are other Lincoln-Elizabethtown contacts and interesting facts:

For example: The Hardin county court house is one of the chief documentary sources of Lincolniana in Kentucky.

Secondly, Thomas Lincoln owned and paid taxes on two lots within the city of Elizabethtown.

Immediately after his marriage on June 12, 1806, Thomas and Nancy Hanks made their first home in Elizabethtown.

Of the total value of property listed in 1814 in which there are 98 persons listed, only fifteen show a greater property value than that of Thomas Lincoln.

Was Abraham Lincoln, the future 16th president of the United States, ever in Elizabethtown? Perhaps, on many occasions, but we are fairly certain that in December, 1816, he passed through Elizabethtown with his family on the way to Indiana.

However: While our city may not have: An Old Kentucky Home, a national historical shrine, a bronze statue, or an ancient court house, we do have a very valuable asset . . . Samuel Haycraft, Junior's History of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, and its surroundings, written in 1869.

Its picturesque language; its faithful, folksy accuracy, and its detailed history have caused this book to be placed in many of our large libraries throughout the United States.

Perhaps it is because of Samuel Haycraft, Junior's history that we are gathered here today to dedicate the Hardin Thomas home (better known as the Lincoln Heritage House.)

Haycraft said that "He (Hardin Thomas) lived in a house that was rather better than usual for that day, the carpenter's work of which was executed by Thomas Lincoln, the

father of the late president; and the most of that work is to be seen at this day, sound as a trout, although done upwards of sixty years ago."

In another reference to the Hardin Thomas cabin, Haycraft referred to Lincoln as a JOINER rather than a carpenter. This statement implies that Lincoln did the fine cabinet work, the mantle, the baseboards, the stairway, the doors and the windows.

Haycraft evidently was of the opinion that the construction date was upwards of sixty years which would place the date about the year 1809, the year of the president's birth. Some local historians have fixed the date as early as 1805.

Since we have here a double log house, perhaps it would be well to explain that they were not built the same year.

The smaller log house, which consists of one room downstairs and a loft upstairs, was probably built about 1789 by Hardin Thomas on land inherited by his wife, Mehitable Gerrard Thomas, which was originally owned by Captain Thomas Helm.

Here, Jack Thomas, the first child of the Thomas' was born on February 7, 1790.

It is of interest to note that Abraham Lincoln wrote Samuel Haycraft on May 28, 1860 and identified Jack Thomas, and claimed to be familiar with his handwriting.

Undoubtedly it was the four-room, larger cabin, erected about 1805, in which Thomas Lincoln did the "joiner's" work.

It is an established fact that Thomas Lincoln was a skillful cabinetmaker.

ed June 17, 1781).

Her father, Elder John Gerard, was captured by the Indians and it is not known to this day "whether he was slain outright, burnt at the stake, or was allowed to linger in captivity".

The Thomas's had many sons — besides Jack there were Isaac, Jesse, Miles and Alex, and there were several daughters.

Hardin Thomas was a farmer — an honest man. Haycraft called him the "noblest work of God" — a man "possessed of a degree of benevolence rarely met with in this world of dollars and cents."

Everyone loved Hardin Thomas and his wife. His home was a kind of central point for the neighborhood — a gathering place for good food and pleasant social contacts.

He was a man of portly form and pleasant countenance — a person whose face was comfortable to look upon — a complete index of the inner man.

His mother was a Hardin, the daughter of John Hardin, who was the brother of the old original Mark Hardin of George's Creek, Pennsylvania.

His father was named Owen Thomas, a brother of Gen. John Thomas, who commanded the Kentucky troops under General Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans.

Over the years little attention was paid to the Hardin Thomas house. It was in the hands of private owners.

It was occupied by tenants. It had fallen into a bad state of repair. Sometime during its long history it had been covered with clapboard.

The restoration has come about because:

The house, and its original site, have become a part of the Valley Creek watershed . . . a city park . . . public property.

Because the historic building has been carefully examined by experts (namely the

Thomas Brothers who are not relatives of the pioneer), Dr. Samuel W. Thomas, who was and is the resident curator of "Locust Grove" near Louisville, the restored home of George Rogers Clark, and his brother, James Thomas, who was and is presently working on the restoration of Shaker-town, both of whom appreciated and understood the great historic significance of this pioneer home.

Certainly the restoration has been a professional undertaking.

Thirdly, many dedicated Hardin county and Elizabethtown citizens have worked diligently to raise money to match funds for a grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to make the project a reality.

What a fortunate and remarkable thing it is that a house which Thomas Lincoln helped to build is still standing. . . that the original site is well above the water area of Freeman Lake . . . that the historic home is located on public land . . . that it is near an important highway . . . that it is located in the Lincoln Country of Kentucky . . . and that the historic home has so many dedicated sponsors who will provide for its protection and maintenance.

So here today we have the Hardin Thomas house, the carpenter's work of which was executed by Thomas Lincoln, the father of the late president, and the most of that work is to be seen this day, sound as a trout, although done upwards of one hundred and sixty eight years ago.

It was rumored around the community that he had the best set of tools in Hardin county.

From Bleakley & Montgomery's ledgers, we learn that that these Elizabethtown merchants sold Thomas Lincoln the following tools and supplies from 1804-1808: 1 cascade saw, 1 plane bit, 1 file, 1 saw, 1 foot adz, 1 shoe knife, ½ doz. screws, 1 gimlet, and sandpaper.

We have identified 7 corner cupboards, 1 wall cupboard, a cherry spool bed, a mantlepiece (from this house), a desk, a bookcase, some chests, and sideboards, all the work of Thomas Lincoln.

Thomas Lincoln was particularly fond of an inlay pattern known as the "Star & Streamer" and he also employed the "hole and tooth" or "dental" design on some of his cupboards.

He had an artistic idiosyncrasy — while other cabinetmakers would invariably apply their inlays to the cabinet proper, Thomas Lincoln, except in one instance, attached inlaid strips to the cupboard facings.

In fact this idiosyncrasy in some cases has enabled collectors to identify the work of the pioneer cabinetmaker.

But getting back to Hardin Thomas. Haycraft tells us that he was a man of peace. But as a young man he fought with Gen. George Rogers Clark. As one of twenty-five Hardin county frontiersmen he went through the hardships of war, ice, overflowing rivers and hunger to make a vital contribution to our nation's independence and the settlement of Kentucky.

He married Hetty Gerrard, a daughter of the first pastor of the Regular Baptist Church of Severn's Valley (establish-

Many Revolutionary War Vets Settled in Hardin

Compiled by Elizabeth Pate

After the Revolutionary War many young men came to Kentucky. Some came through Cumberland Gap while others preferred the Ohio River. Many of these were men who had fought in the War of Independence and later settled in Hardin County. How many were there, and who were they?

From "Abstracts of Pensions, Soldiers of the Revolution, 1812 and Indian Wars Who Settled in Hardin County, Kentucky" by McGhee and County Court records, I have found the names of over sixty such men. The appropriate resting place of some of these soldiers is known. However, if you know where any more are buried I would appreciate that information.

Not all the soldiers received a pension, therefore, it is interesting to know something of the acts of Congress pertaining to their qualifications. Prior to 1818 all congressional pension legislation relating to Revolutionary War service provided benefits only to those veterans who had been disabled in service, and to the widows and orphans of officers who had been killed in or died as a result of service.

The first Federal law granting pensions on the basis of service along in the Revolutionary War was an act of Mar. 1818, which required that a veteran have had at least nine

months of service and been in reduced circumstances. An act of May 1, 1820, required each pensioner to submit a schedule of his property and income, which resulted in the removal of many pensioners from the rolls. Veterans who had served no less than six months were eligible for pensions under an act of June 7, 1832.

In 1779 the State of Virginia passed a law promising half-pay for life to the officers who served to the end of the War. By an act of July 5, 1832, the United States Congress directed the Secretary of Treasury to settle claims that

had not been paid by the State of Virginia.

The congressional acts of July 4, 1836; July 7, 1838; July 20, 1848; and February 3, 1853, affected widows of Revolutionary war veterans. The essential feature of each of these acts relates to the date of marriage. The four acts specified time of marriage respectively as follows: (1) before the last period of the veteran's service, (2) after the end of the veteran's service but before January 1, 1794, (3) before Jan. 2, 1800, and (4) after January 1800.

A man could enlist in the War of Independence for a period of from three months to three years. He could also serve as a substitute for another person, which one man who latter settled in Hardin County did. Most all of the men reenlisted several times.

In compiling these records I have found the names of men who fought at Bunker Hill, Valley Forge and Yorktown and one man who was with the Navy. There were also those who guarded the frontier.

The majority of the men who went on the Expedition of General George Roger Clark to fight the Wabash Indians from Hardin County had already settled here. They were under the command of Capt. Moses Kenkindall, and furnished their own rations.

They were Thompson Ashby, Thomas Amos, Charles Bush, John Carson, William Christian, Adam Coombs, Nicholas Coombs, William Cornelius, Cornelius Cummins, John Dial, Isarel Dodge, Sam Dooley, Abner Fields, C Fields, Lewis Fields, James Farkes, Isaac Goodwin, Henry Helm, Abraham Hunter, William Johnson, James Johnston, Robert Lasley, James Sullivan, Hardin Thomas, Unah Thompson and Thomas Winn.

According to Hardin County Court records others supplied such things as an unprepared beef, a gun improvement for the Jefferson County Militia, rations for the Nelson County Militia and horse service.

Listed below is a brief summary of other veterans who settled in Hardin County.

Samuel Awbry (Aubry) Cir-

ca 1759 and was living near the Breckinridge County line in 1832. He was in the Virginia Continental Line and served three years in the Army. He fought under General Washington and General Green.

Anthony Amant was born in York County, Pennsylvania in 1757. He enlisted in 1776 in Pennsylvania and fought at White Plains. In 1777 he re-enlisted in Virginia and drove a team to supply ammunition flour and spirits at Valley Forge. He came to Kentucky in 1804 and is buried at Old Union Baptist Cemetery.

James Belknap Circa 1758-Feb. 16 1824, was a member of the Massachusetts Line. His first battle was Bunker Hill and his last Yorktown. He was wounded at Collier Hill. He was a cooper by occupation and lived in Hart County, Kentucky in 1822.

Davis Burcham, Circa 1734 died after 1843. Enlisted in 1780 in Washington Pennsylvania. Served at Redstone Fort and Enlow Station where he was an Indian spy.

William Bush, died Dec. 18, 1820. He was attached to the Kentucky Militia from Pennsylvania. He served under Capt. John Thomas and Maj. Patrick Brown. He was wounded Oct. 17, 1791 in the Expedition commanded by Maj. Gen. St. Clair against the Miami Indians. He and his wife Elizabeth were living in Hardin County in 1800.

John Carson, Circa 1747 died after 1818. He enlisted in South Carolina in May 1775 and served there until the later part of 1781. His wife's name was Elizabeth.

Warren Cash, April 4, 1760-Sept. 15, 1849. He enlisted in 1776 in Albermarle County, Virginia in the 7th Regiment. Fought in the battles of Brandywine and Monmouth. In 1784 he was discharged and came to Kentucky with his wife Susannah. He was the first pastor of Gilead Baptist Church and is buried in the church cemetery.

Aaron Cook is certified in County Court records to be a Revolutionary soldier.

James Crutcher, died Sept. 9, 1828 at the age of 65 years, 5 months and 16 days according to his stone in the Vine Grove City Cemetery. He was a private in the Virginia Line. Ann, his wife, is buried beside him.

John Cundiff, Jan. 14, 1757-Sept. 15, 1837. He enlisted in Virginia and fought under the command of Baron Gen. Steuben and pursued the British to Yorktown. He married May 15, 1778 Sally ? in Bedford County, Virginia.

Andrew Fairleigh, 1761-Mar. 1, 1829. Was a private from Pennsylvania. He and his wife Lettice are buried in the Elizabethtown City Cemetery.

Forrest Davis, Circa 1762-Jan. 18, 1836. He enlisted in 1780 at Fort Frederick Maryland and served three years, part of the time as a sergeant. He died leaving no widow.

Jacob Flanders as a private from New Hampshire. He died Dec. 6, 1841, leaving no widow.

John Ferguson, On Oct. 20 1840 Catherine Ferguson appeared in County Court and affirmed that she was the widow of John, a Revolutionary soldier.

Isaac Goodman, Circa 1755-died after 1833. He was drafted in Pennsylvania and served as an Indian spy.

Ignatius Gough, Hardin County Court records state that he departed this life Aug. 30, 1838, leaving no heir. His pension number was 22258.

John Green of Vermont was a substitute for Gethro Brown in 1780. Later he enlisted in his own name and was a scout on Lake Chaplain. He married Ann Flits September 26, 1768 and died in Hardin County July 31, 1833.

Michael Hargan, Circa 1750-October 13, 1840. Served fourteen months in the Continental Army, First Regiment, Pennsylvania and was discharged in April of 1777. He married January 1794 Elizabeth Wallingford of Berkley County, Pennsylvania. Michael Hargan lived on Rolling Fork and had three sons Joseph, Benjamin and David.

Miles Hart, at the February 1835 term of Hardin County Court it was proved by Daniel Linder that Miles Hart, was a soldier in the Virginia State Line and the Illinois Regiment. He was killed by the Indians May 1791 and Elizabeth, his wife, was taken prisoner. She later returned to Kentucky and married Peter Gunterman.

Samuel Haycraft Sr., Nov. 19, 1752-Oct. 8, 1832. He enlisted in 1775 in the 13th Virginia Regiment, but never was in a battle. He was stationed near Pittsburg to guard the frontier. With others he came down the Ohio to the Falls in 1780 and settled in Hardin County. He married September 9, 1788, Margaret Van Meter and was the father of Samuel Haycraft Jr. He is buried in the Elizabethtown City Cemetery.

John Helm, April 3, 1740. He states in his affidavit for William Bush that he was with him under General St. Clair at the Falls in 1791. John Helm served as Paymaster and Quartermaster at that time. He is buried in the Elizabethtown City Cemetery.

Thomas Helm, died in 1816. He was a Captain in the Virginia State Troops. Came to Kentucky in 1780 and his wife's name was Jean Pope. He is buried in the Helm Family Cemetery.

Frederick Hill, County Court records state that he died Oct. 13, 1840, leaving no widow.

Robert Hodgins, July 1742-Feb. 5, 1810. Robert Hodgins was born in England and came to America in 1765, settling in Pennsylvania. He served in the Revolution in the service of the State of Virginia. Came to Phillips Fort in 1784. In 1775 he married Sarah LaRue. Robert Hodgins was one of the first Justices of the Peace in Hardin County, a member of the Legislature in 1795, and Sheriff of Hardin County in 1800. Sarah and Robert are buried in the Cemetery at Nolin Baptist Church.

Thomas Hoskin (Haskin) lived in Pittsylvania County, Virginia when he enlisted under Maj. James Johnson.

Andrew House was deceased before 1807. Ingery Hughes, late House stated in Hardin County Court that she was the only heir of Andrew, who was a soldier under General George Rogers Clark in his expedition to the Illinois and was entitled to land.

John How (Howe) Circa 1754-May 16, 1830. John served for three years in the Virginia Continental Line. Fought at the battles of Trenton and Monmouth. He married Rachel Pindell in July 1782, in Washington County, Pennsylvania. They came to Shelby County, Kentucky thence to Hardin County.

Benjamin Howard, Circa 1766. Served as a private guarding two Forts on the frontier at Cumberland Gap.

William Humphrey, Circa 1754. He enlisted in New Jersey and fought in the battles of Short Hill, Brandywine and Germantown.

Thomas Johnson, Aaron Cook affirmed in 1842 in Hardin County Court that the late Thomas Johnson was a Revolutionary soldier.

Alexander Keith, 1750-1824 according to his stone in the Old Union Baptist Church Cemetery was a private in Capt. David Enoch's Company in Virginia.

Benjamin Kendall died Feb. 16, 1817 and was a private in the Virginia State Line and Illinois Regiment.

Robert Kinkade, died Jan. 31, 1832. He was a member of the First Virginia Regiment, and fought in the battles of Trenton, Princetown, Picataway and Stony Point.

David Linder was a private in the Illinois Regiment under Gen. George Roger Clark.

Andrew Long was a soldier from Pennsylvania.

William Lush was our only Navy man, and was on the Brig. Hawk for two years, part of which time he was a prisoner of the British on the ship Little Fight.

Hugh Lusk according to Hardin County Court records was a late Revolutionary soldier who died Aug. 18, 1836, leaving a widow, Elizabeth.

David Martin was a Revolutionary soldier according to Court records.

Patrick Murvin died March 19, 1845, age 86 years and fought under Gen. Mad Anthony Wayne. He is buried in the Murvin Family Cemetery.

Charles Milton served in Virginia.

Adam Monin, 1754-1831 was a soldier in the Virginia Troops. He is buried on the Monin Farm near Glendale.

John McCandless, Circa 1746-Feb. 2, 1827, fought in the battles of Picataway, Monoth and the taking of Lord Cornwallis.

William McClure was from Pennsylvania.

James McCullum died Mar. 21, 1838 and was at Crawford's

Defeat. He is buried at Clear Creek Cemetery on the Post.

John McDowell was in the 17th Regiment of the Continental Line and was at White Plains, Gifford and Yorktown. He lived in LaRue County.

Alexander McDougal, May 1, 1742-March 3, 1841. He was born in Ireland and came to America in 1762. Lived in both North and South Carolina before coming to Kentucky in 1801. He saw service mostly in the South. He was a Baptist preacher for sixty years and is buried in Nolin Baptist Church Cemetery.

James McWilliams died April 26, 1843. He joined the Army at the age of sixteen and served part of the time under Marcus De Lafayette. He came to Hardin County in 1801 and lived on the waters of Mill Creek.

James Newton enlisted in Maryland in 1776 and served for six years.

John O'Daniels died on August 15, 1838 leaving Sarah, his widow.

Benjamin Parker enlisted in Virginia and marched through Fredericktown, Little York, Lancaster, Philadelphia to White Plains.

Samuel Paton enlisted in 1776 and fought the British every day for two weeks, and was also in the battles of Brandywine and Germantown. He died in Hardin County July 13, 1837.

Anthony Phelps enlisted in May 1777 under Capt. Richard May. He was at Boonsborough when it was besieged by the Indians. He also fought with General George R. Clark. He is buried at Barren Run Baptist Church in LaRue County.

George Rane died Dec. 26, 1839 leaving a wife Elizabeth.

Henry Rains, Joseph Rider and John Rodgelev were Revolutionary soldiers according to Hardin County Court Records.

John Scott was a private in the Virginia State Troops.

James Slate enlisted in Virginia and fought from Brandywine to Yorktown. He was crippled by 1818 and had no family. He died March 16, 1836.

Joseph Smith and John Smoot were Revolutionary soldiers according to Court records.

John Stonebaker was born in Berk County, Pennsylvania and fought at Brandywine, Germantown and near Trenton.

Soloman Turner enlisted in Maryland in 1778 and served with the 7th Regiment until 1782. He died in Hardin County April 14, 1820.

Capt. Jacob Van Meter Sr., 1723-1798. He was an Ensign in the 12th Virginia Regiment in the French and Indian Wars, and a Captain in the Illinois Regiment of the Virginia State Line. He and his wife Letitia Stroud were among the first settlers in the Valley, and are buried in the Elizabethtown City Cemetery.

Jacob Van Meter was an Ensign in the Illinois Regiment in 1778 and was with Gen. Clark during his entire Indian campaign. He married Rebecca Rawlings in Hardin County. He was known as "Miller Jake".

Isaac Vertrees, April 15, 1755-April 5, 1822, served with the 8th Regiment of Pennsylvania Line for three years. He is probably buried in the Old Vertrees Cemetery near Vine Grove.

Thomas Wilkins was a private in the 14th Virginia Regiment of Foot for three years. He died January 29, 1837, leaving Peggy, his widow.

Nicholas West was married by Benjamin Linn March 9, 1790 to Elizabeth Morgan in Washington County, Kentucky.

Richard Winchester, Feb. 15, 1755-Oct. 14, 1842, enlisted in Connecticut and served four drafts. His wife's name was Lydia and they resided in LaRue County.

It is fitting and proper that these men who fought for our independence and later struggled to help settle our state should be honored during our Bicentennial.



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Road - Elizabethtown to Hifpau
signed by Genl Shacklet, Harden Thomas, Genl. Shaw
Elizabethtown, nearly with the road leading to
Capt. Helms' house to Capt. Thomas' house
to Shaw's back . . .

where road said road runs through, Genl.
Helms, Harden Thomas, Alexander Castley . . .
Road Petition 1805

HARDY, THOMAS HOUSE.
BUILT BY THOMAS LINCOLN

DRAWER 11

ANCESTRAL HOMES

